health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NOTICE: RECOMMENDED THERAPEUTIC ALTERNATIVES FOR BROMOCRIPTINE 2.5MG TABLETS

The Adult Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) recommends the use of bromocriptine for the treatment of prolactinoma.

There are currently supply constraints with bromocriptine 2.5mg tablets supplied by Pharmacare (Pty) Ltd, the sole supplier of this product. It is expected that stock will be available in December 2026. During this period, it is recommended that the therapeutic alternative, cabergoline be utilised. Refer to Table 1 below for dosing recommendations and Table 2 for procurement details.

Table 1: Therapeutic Alternative for Bromocriptine 2.5 mg tablets

Indication: Hospital Level (ADULTS)	STG Recommendation	Therapeutic Alternative[1]
Chapter 8 Endocrine: **Section: 8.15.1 Prolactinoma**	**MEDICINE TREATMENT** Dopamine agonist therapy is the treatment of choice. • Bromocriptine, oral, 1.25 mg at bedtime with a snack. o Initial maintenance dose: increase dose to 2.5 mg 12 hourly with food and check prolactin 4 weeks later. o Higher doses may be needed. o GIT side effects are minimised by giving doses with food. o If total dose of 10 mg does not normalise prolactin, refer.	• Cabergoline, oral. o Initially 0.5 mg weekly given in 1 or 2 doses. o Increased as required (by 0.5 mg/week at monthly intervals) to a usual maximum of 1 mg twice weekly. o Doses higher than 1 mg should be divided. ***Note: For those switching from maintenance bromocriptine – a cabergoline maintenance dose, which is usually 0.25 to 1.0 mg twice weekly can be used. Switching to be done under consultation of specialist or specialist clinic.***

The following product is available on National Contract for ordering:

Table 2: Cabergoline Procurement Information

NSN	Product	Supplier	Contract
180348494	Cabergoline; 500mcg; Tablet; 4 Tablets	Pfizer Laboratories (Pty) Ltd	HP09-2026SD

Circular Implementation and Dissemination

Provinces and healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees and all other relevant stakeholders.

Kind regards

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CHIEF DIRECTOR: HEALTH PRODUCTS PROCUREMENT
DATE: 28 October 2026

[1] Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town. (2024). South African Medicines Formulary (SAMF). https://samf-app.com