

# Morphine Injection with Preservative – Administration Considerations



National Department of Health

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Affordable Medicines Directorate  
Essential Drugs Program

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Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and  
Essential Medicines List (EML)



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# Background



The Adult Hospital Level and Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML currently recommend the use of Morphine injection for various indications



Morphine Injection 10mg/ml and 15mg/ml is available on national contract in a split contract between Pharma-Q and Unimed Healthcare

However there is a difference in the excipients contained in the products provided by the two suppliers



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# Morphine Injections available on contract



## Unimed Healthcare



- 1 The morphine injection contains a preservative, sodium metabisulphite 0.1% m/v
- 2 Administration can be subcutaneous, intramuscular, or slow intravenous injection only
- 3 The product cannot be administered via the intrathecal (spinal) route. It therefore cannot be used for epidural anaesthesia
- 4 Unimed Healthcare Morphine 10mg/ml and 15mg/ml cannot be administered by the intrathecal route

## Pharma-Q



- 1 The morphine injection does not contain any preservatives
- 2 These products are indicated for administration by slow intravenous infusion, subcutaneous, or intrathecal injection
- 3 Pharma-Q Morphine 10mg/ml and 15mg/ml can be administered by the intrathecal route



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# Morphine Injections available on contract



NSN	Product	Supplier	Contract
<b><i>Contain preservative, do not use for spinal injections</i></b>			
189703413	Morphine Hydrochloride; 10mg/ml; injection; 1 ml	Unimed Healthcare (Pty) Ltd	HP06-2024SVP
189700425	Morphine Hydrochloride; 15mg/ml; injection; 1 ml	Unimed Healthcare (Pty) Ltd	HP06-2024SVP
<b><i>Does not contain preservative, can be used for spinal injections</i></b>			
189703413	Morphine Hydrochloride; 10mg/ml; injection; 1 ml	Pharma-Q (Pty) Ltd	HP06-2024SVP
189700425	Morphine Hydrochloride; 15mg/ml; injection; 1 ml	Pharma-Q (Pty) Ltd	HP06-2024SVP



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# Pharmacovigilance



1

Check the brand of morphine available at the facility and ensure that the intended route of administration is aligned to the specific product's professional recommendations

2

Report any side effects and/or sub-therapeutic outcomes as adverse drug reactions for routine pharmacovigilance monitoring and investigation, through either the MedSafety app for smartphones or by emailing [adr@sahpra.org.za](mailto:adr@sahpra.org.za)



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# NDoH Recommendation



1

Pharma-Q (Pty) Ltd, the supplier of **preservative-free Morphine Hydrochloride 10mg/ml and 15mg/ml injections** has informed the the NDoH of supply constraints affecting these products

2

**The NDoH recommends** procuring preservative-free Morphine Hydrochloride injections through qoutation until the supply issue is resolved

3

**Healthcare facilities are advised to review their current stock levels and prioritise the use of preservative-free formulations for intrathecal and epidural procedures**



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# Thank You



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