



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X828, **PRETORIA**, 0001, Civitas Building, Pretoria

Reference: (supersedes 2020/10/14/EDP/01 and 2020/10/26/EDP/01) 2020/11/03/EDP/01

NOTICE: AVAILABILITY OF COMBINATION TABLETS FOR ATAZANAVIR/RITONAVIR AND DARUNAVIR/RITONAVIR [Updated pricing – circular version 3]

The Adult Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) currently recommends the use of atazanavir and ritonavir (ATV/r) in patients with protease inhibitor (PI)-induced dyslipidaemia at high risk of developing cardiovascular disease¹. Darunavir and ritonavir (DRV/r) is a patient-specific medicine indicated for patients with documented PI resistance (i.e. for third line antiretroviral therapy)². These two PIs are currently on tender as single agents (i.e. without ritonavir).

Recently, the combination formulations ATV/r and DRV/r have been registered with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority. Quotations have been supplied for provinces to procure these items (see Table 1 below). Utilisation of these products will reduce the pill burden on patients, which has been shown to be beneficial to patient adherence on anti-retrovirals (ARVs). Using the ATV/r combination will reduce the pill burden from 3 tablets to 1 tablet required per day, whilst utilising the DRV/r will reduce the pill burden from 3 tablets to 2 tablets per day. The ATV/r will be available at a lower price than for the single agents, however, there is an increase in cost for the DRV/r that should be taken into consideration (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Product summary for ATV/r and DRV/r

Product description	Cost per pack (per quotation)	Quantity (packs) & Lead Times	Current cost using single agents*	NSN
Atazanavir/ritonavir 300/100mg; 30 tablets	R264.00 (Mylan)	60 000 – 56 days	R315.48	222001139
	R264.00 (Emcure)	5 000 – 14 days 30 000 – 30 days & every 14 days thereafter		
Darunavir/ritonavir 400/50mg; 60 tablets	R830.00 (Mylan)	1 600 – 56 days	R647.62	222001140

*As per Master Procurement Catalogue, 1 October 2020 (available at <http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/medicine>)

Procurement of ATV/r and DRV/r tablets

Public healthcare facilities may procure ATV/r and DRV/r tablets on quotation.

Provinces and Healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with their Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees. Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Comments may be submitted via e-mail:

Stock queries:

Ms Babalwa Melitafa

E-mail: Babalwa.Melitafa@health.gov.za

Clinical queries:

Essential Drugs Programme

E-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

The National Department of Health continues to explore other therapeutic options and formulations to improve access to antiretroviral treatment.

Kind regards

MS K JAMALOODIEN
DIRECTOR: AFFORDABLE MEDICINES
DATE: 03 November 2020

¹ <http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list>

² <http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/affordable-medicines/category/524-third-line-antiretrovirals>