



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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NOTICE: RESTORED SUPPLY OF BENZATHINE BENZYL PENICILLIN INJECTION

The Primary Healthcare (PHC), Adult Hospital and Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) currently recommend benzathine benzylpenicillin injection for various indications.

Historical global shortages of benzathine benzylpenicillin led to the STGs being previously amended to prioritise the limited supply of benzathine benzylpenicillin for the treatment of syphilis for pregnant women and children.

The contracted supplier, Ando Pharma (Pty) Ltd, has indicated that the supply of benzathine benzylpenicillin is currently adequate to meet the national demand for all recommended STG indications of benzathine benzylpenicillin. In light of the stabilised supply of benzathine benzylpenicillin injection, the recommendation included in the PHC Chapter 12: Sexually Transmitted Infections, restricting benzathine benzylpenicillin to only pregnant women and children for the treatment of syphilis has been removed. The full amendment will be reflected in the PHC 2024, 8th Edition.

Benzathine benzylpenicillin remains the STG recommended treatment of choice for primary, latent and secondary syphilis; and tonsillopharyngitis in children. If there is no benzathine benzylpenicillin available to treat syphilis in a pregnant woman, amoxicillin may be used as an alternative. Please refer to the relevant sections of the PHC, Adult Hospital and Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML for the comprehensive guidance on the management of other indications where benzathine benzylpenicillin injection is recommended, and apply the guidance as indicated in the STGs without restrictions.

Procurement of benzathine benzylpenicillin injection

NSN	Product	Supplier	Contract
189708890	Benzathine Benzylpenicillin 1.2 MU injection	Ando Pharma (Pty) Ltd	HP02-2023AI
189700011	Benzathine Benzylpenicillin 2.4MU injection	Ando Pharma (Pty) Ltd	HP02-2023AI

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Circular dissemination

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

Kind regards

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CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE PROCUREMENT

DATE: 31/05/2024