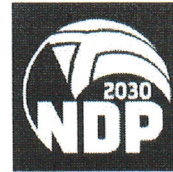




health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: 2022/02/18/EDP/01

Inquiries:

Stock queries:

Ms Babalwa Melitafa

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

Tender queries

Ms Ephodia Nyathi

Email: ephodia.nyathi@health.gov.za

Clinical queries:

Essential Drugs Programme

E-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

NOTICE: PROCUREMENT OF METHYLPHENIDATE LONG-ACTING FORMULATIONS

Circular no. 1 of February 2022

The Paediatric Hospital Level (2017 edition) Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) currently recommends the use of methylphenidate short-acting for the management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Clinical evidence shows that short- and long-acting methylphenidate produce equivalent clinical outcomes when dosed at equivalent doses and administered at the correct times. As such, the short and long-acting products are considered therapeutically equivalent, and as such are tendered for as a therapeutic class. Thus if the price bids received for the long acting formulations are comparable to that of the short acting methylphenidate, then long-acting methylphenidate can be considered for award, (Refer to Therapeutic Interchange Policy).¹

Ritalin LA® (Methylphenidate long-acting) was previously awarded on national contract and was procured by health facilities until the end of the contract (April 2021). On the new contract (HP09-2021SD: Supply and Delivery of Solid Dosage Forms to the Department of Health for the period of 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2023), only methylphenidate short-acting was awarded. Long-acting methylphenidate was not awarded due to the large price difference as compared to the short-acting formulation, see table 1 below:

Table 1

Product	Description	Offered price	Outcome
Short-acting	Methylphenidate 10mg tablet, 30 tablets	R24.95	Awarded
Long-acting	Methylphenidate 18 - 20mg modified release tablet/capsule, 30 tablets/capsules	R178.25	Not awarded
Long-acting	Methylphenidate 27 - 30mg modified release tablet/capsule, 30 tablets/capsules	R195.50	Not awarded
Long-acting	Methylphenidate 36 - 40mg modified release tablet/capsule, 30 tablets/capsules	R327.25	Not awarded

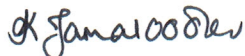
Although long-acting methylphenidate with its once daily dosing provides a practical benefit, this benefit cannot be justified by its far higher price as compared to the short-acting formulation.

¹ Policy for Classifying Medicines into Therapeutic Classes for Purposes of Therapeutic Interchange, 2021. <https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/policy-classifying-medicines-therapeutic-classes-purposes-therapeutic-interchange-2021>

The review process is dynamic, and thus if future studies show that the long-acting methylphenidate product provides a better clinical outcome over the short-acting product, this will be reviewed by the National Department of Health to inform future decisions regarding procurement.

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

Kind regards



MS K JAMALOODIEN

DIRECTOR: AFFORDABLE MEDICINES

DATE: 18 February 2022