



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Inquiries:

Stock inquiries:

Ms Babalwa Melitafa

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

Clinical queries:

Essential Drugs Programme

E-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

NOTICE: DISCONTINUATION OF FERROUS LACTATE DROPS AND RECOMMENDED THERAPEUTIC ALTERNATIVE AND DOSING

Circular no. 1 of November 2021

The Paediatric Hospital Level (2017 edition) Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) currently recommends the use of oral iron in children for a number of indications.

The sole supplier of the paediatric ferrous lactate drops in South Africa is discontinuing the production of this item. **Ferrous gluconate 350 mg/ml syrup** is however available on the National contract (*HP12-2020LQ: Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceutical Liquids, Alcohol, Ether, Glycerin and Methylated Spirits to the Department of Health for the Period from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2023*). The recommended therapeutic equivalent dosing of ferrous gluconate is outlined below:

Product	Strength	Elemental iron per ml
Ferrous lactate drops	25 mg elemental iron per 1ml	25 mg
Ferrous gluconate	350 mg/5ml	8.2 mg

1 ml Ferrous lactate drops = 3 ml Ferrous gluconate syrup

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

DR J JUGATHPAL

ACTING DIRECTOR: AFFORDABLE MEDICINES

DATE: 17 November 2021