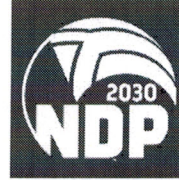




health

Department:  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: AMD06052024/01

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### **NOTICE: CYTARABINE INJECTION FOR INTRATHECAL USE**

The Tertiary and Quaternary Hospital Level Essential Medicines List recommends cytarabine for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and acute lymphoid leukaemia (ALL).

Cytarabine 100mg and 500mg injections have been awarded on the HP04-2024ONC: Supply and Delivery of Oncology and Immunological Agents to the Department of Health for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026. Both strengths have been awarded to Fresenius Kabi SA (Pty) Ltd.

We would just like to caution healthcare professionals that these cytarabine products: Cytarabine 100mg/ml Fresenius and Cytarabine 500mg/5ml Fresenius, are **not recommended for use via the intrathecal route**.

Where the intrathecal route is required, a cytarabine formulation from Pfizer Laboratories (Pty) Ltd (powder for injection) is recommended for use via the intrathecal route. It is recommended that facilities procure this product for intrathecal use, as a buy-out on quotation from Pfizer as required.

There have however been supply constraints with the Pfizer cytarabine product (Cytosar®). Cytosar® is expected to be back in stock by end of July 2024. In the meantime, it is requested that Cytosar® be reserved for patients where administration via the intrathecal route is required. Furthermore, health facilities are requested to share the stock of Cytosar® amongst each other until supply is normalised.

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,

*K Jamaloodien*

**MS KHADIJA JAMALOODIEN**  
**CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR-WIDE PROCUREMENT**  
**DATE: 10/5/2024**