



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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### **NOTICE: VINCRISTINE STOCK CHALLENGES**

Vincristine is included on the Tertiary Essential Medicines list for general haematology and oncology, and particularly used in the paediatric setting.

Due to a shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) to manufacture the abovementioned products, the contracted supplier is currently facing supply constraints with these products. A request for quotation was sent to all registered suppliers with whom this product is registered in South Africa but to no avail.

To mitigate the risk of a complete stock-out and not supplying this important medication to facilities in need, Oethmaan Biosims (Pty) Ltd has sourced stock on Section 21 from an alternative manufacturer on behalf of Accord Healthcare which is the contracted supplier of this product. The estimated time of arrival is the second week of March 2024, and will be supplied until the 01<sup>st</sup> of July 2024, or until the Section 21 stock is depleted. Updated communication will be sent once the stock arrives.

While the arrival of the section 21 stock is awaited, it is advised that available stock be distributed to hospitals in need. The facility stock-on-hand report will be attached.

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

Kind regards

**MS K JAMALOODIEN**

**CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE PROCUREMENT**

**DATE:** 23/2/2024