health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Heads of Pharmaceutical Services
Provincial Depot Managers

Dear HOPS/Depot Managers

RE: URGENT FDC ROLL OUT

It has come to our attention that many facilities continue to delay their rollout of the fixed dose combination of Tenofovir / Emtricitabine and Efavirenz (FDC, TEE) to all clinically eligible patients.

As per a circular sent out on the 1 October 2013 **all** eligible patient groups should have been offered the opportunity to switch to FDC. That is, previous priority groups 1 to 7 should **all** have begun switching, as clinically appropriate:

1	All HIV positive patients eligible for initiating ART, including all pregnant women (regardless of CD4 count).
2	HIV positive pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers currently stable on singles 3TC, TDF and EFV.
3	Virologically suppressed patients on a d4T-based regimen who have normal renal function.
4, 5, 6,7	Stable patients receiving singles TDF, 3TC and EFV, with or without co-morbidities, as clinically appropriate.

Concerns about single agents expiring, or the need to use up single agents, are not acceptable reasons for delaying FDC rollout. Facilities with excess or short dated single agents should contact their depots for stock upliftment.

As with any product, continued monitoring and evaluation should be adopted to maintain sustainable supply to all facilities.

Please ensure that you work with your programmatic partners and networks of pharmacy personnel to convey the message that all priority group patients need to be switched as a matter of urgency.

Failure to comply with this policy is a contravention of national policy on ARV treatment and the necessary disciplinary steps will be taken against such persons.

DR T PILLAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: HEALTH REGULATIONS AND COMPLIANCE
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