



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To whom it may concern.

Three months` supply of ARV medicines.

There is no indication of any legislation prohibiting the supply of medicines for three months to any one patient. This practice should only be implemented once the patient has proved to be stable on a regimen.

This, however, has implications for Drug Supply Management:

- Availability of sufficient quantities of ARVs at facility level, all the medicines in any regimen must be supplied in full to the patient.
- Sufficient storage area to keep the drugs at facility level. (Initially larger quantities will be required).
- Regular delivery systems in the province to ensure continuous medicine availability.
- Effective drug supply management at facility level.
- Initially increased storage space in provincial pharmaceutical depots to cater for the higher demand.

Each province should evaluate the capacity of the facilities, including storage space and medicine availability before deciding to implement dispensing a three-month supply.

Your assistance in the implementation of this practice will be appreciated and this will reduce the patient burden at facilities.

Director: Affordable Medicines

Ms H Zeeman

Date: 02-07-2010

Acting Director: Comprehensive HIV and AIDS, Care, Management and Treatment Plan

Dr N Dlamini

Date: 02/07/2010.