



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



MULTI-MONTH DRUG DISPENSING OF ARV MEDICINES



Introduction

- The Ministry of Health has recommended multi-month drug dispensing of ARV medicines to eligible People Living with HIV.
- This fact sheet contains information about multi-month drug dispensing and handling of multi-month packs ranging from dispensing, ordering and warehouse refills.
- They may be used as a reference material for providers/mobilisers when interacting with clients.

What is multi-month drug dispensing?

- Multi-month dispensing involves the giving to stable clients ARV medicines that lasts longer than one month at a go.
- Multi-month packs for ARV medicines contain pills that can be used for more than 1 month (3 and 6 months). The ARVs that are currently available in multi month packs of 3 or 6 months are: TDF/3TC/DTG 300mg/300mg/50mg and TDF/3TC/EFV 300mg/300mg/400mg.



Who is eligible for Multi-Month Dispensing?

ART Clients who are stable and:

- o Are 15 years and above
- o Are not due for repeat viral load test in less than 3 months. Not TB/HIV coinfectd
- o Have no regimen switch or substitution in the last 6 months

Stable Clients

- PLHIV (Children, adolescents, Pregnant and lactating women and adults) on current ART regimen for more than 12 months
- Virally suppressed: Most recent viral load result suppressed within the last 12 months.
- WHO stages 1 or 2
- On 1st or 2nd line ART regimens
- Demonstrated good adherence (over 95%) in the last 6 consecutive months
- TB clients who have completed 2 months intensive phase treatment and are sputum negative



Why multi-month drug dispensing?

- Giving ARV medicines that lasts longer than one month to stable patients at a go reduces the need for frequent trips to the clinic and associated costs.
- Multi-month pack sizes have been introduced because of the following reasons:
 - Multi-month pack sizes are cheaper compared to monthly pack sizes.
 - Multi-month pack sizes require reduced storage space compared to the equivalent number of monthly pack sizes.
 - It is also easier to take when given as a combination pill (one pill containing three ARVs).



What information should you give to clients when dispensing multi month packs?

- Why take the ARV medicine
- How to take the ARV medicine
- When to take the ARV medicine (morning/mid-day/evening)
- How much medicine to take (number of tablets)
- How long the dispensed drug will last
- Information about possible side effects
- Report any side effects immediately to the health worker and obtain advice.
- Information about any drug interactions
- How to store the medicine
- Tell patient to return to health facility for review on the stated dates or when they feel unwell.
- Caution the patient not to share medicines with other patients.
- Tell the patient to repeat the instructions to assess understanding of the information provided.

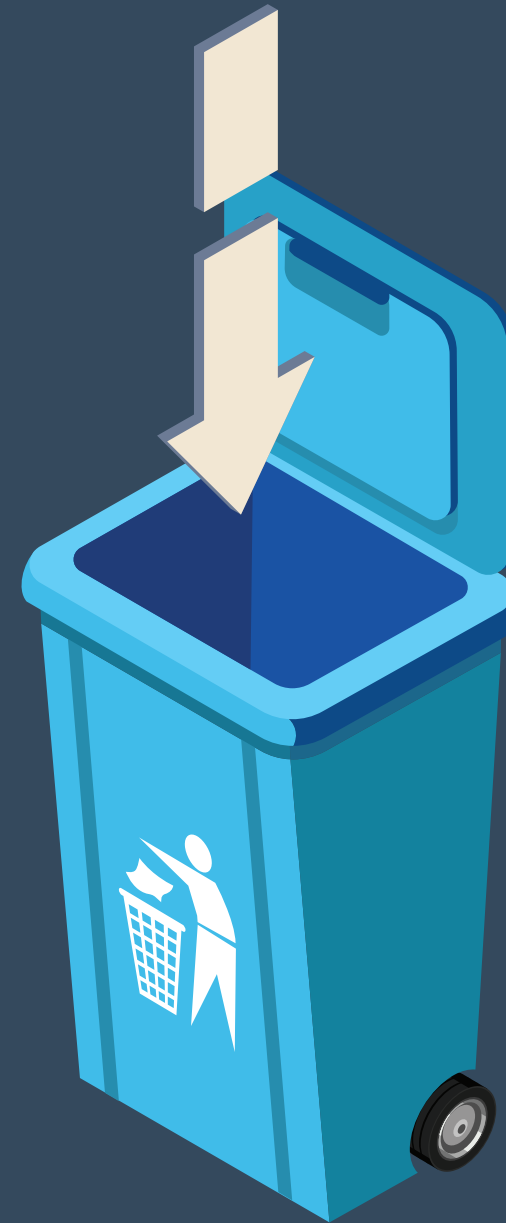
How should clients store the ARV medicine?

- Store the medicine in a cool dry place.
- Cover the medicines bottle immediately after picking the medicine.
- To keep the tablets dry, they should keep the desiccant (drying agent pack) in the bottle until all the tablets are finished. Do not consume the desiccant and keep it away from children.
- If the color or smell of the medicine changes, the client should return all remaining tablets to the supplying health facility where the health worker will advise accordingly.



How should returned ARV drugs by patients be handled at the health facility?

- The returned medicine bottle with remaining tablets from the patient should be handled the same way spoiled medicines or expired drugs are handled at the health facility.
- Record the medicine in the expired or spoiled medicines register (HMIS PHAR 010) and place them in a designated part of the storeroom labelled as storage area for expired drugs.
- DO NOT re-dispense the returned medicines to anyone.



How can health facilities order for multi-month packs?

- Order for multi-month packs i.e. TLD 90 pack and TLE 90 pack using the same procedures and order form (ARV medicines Order and Patient report form HMIS PHAR 017) used when ordering for other ARVs and OI medicines.
- Please pick the consumption of multi-month packs from their respective column in the ART and OI medicines dispensing log.
- Do not interchange consumption data for the pack of 30 tablets with that of the pack of 90 tablets for both TLD and TLE400mg.
- Warehouses are expected to fill orders for multi-month packs using stock for multi-month pack sizes i.e. TLD 90 pack and TLE 90 pack except in circumstances when stocks for multi-month packs are not sufficient.
- The HMIS PHAR 017 ARV Medicines Order and Patient Report Form and HMIS PHAR 024 ARV and OI Medicines Dispensing Log have 3 different pack sizes for TDF/3TC/DTG 300mg/300mg/50mg (pack of 30 tablets, pack of 90 tablets and pack of 180 tablets) and TDF/3TC/EFV 300mg/300mg/400mg



Is there need to open up a new stock card for each of the different pack sizes upon receipt of stock?

- Yes, open a new stock card for each of the different pack sizes upon receipt of stock.
- Multi-month packs include: TLD 90 pack, TLD 180 pack and TLE 90 pack.



How should the multi-month packs be captured in the dispensing log?

- Open a new stock card for each of the different pack sizes upon receipt of stock. Multi-month packs include: TLD 90 pack, TLD 180 pack and TLE 90 pack.
- Patients eligible for multi-month dispensing will receive multi-month packs i.e. TLD 90 and TLE 90 packs.
- Reserve TLD30 pack for unstable and newly enrolled patients on ART.
- Capture quantity dispensed for patients receiving multi-month packs under the respective column for the different formulations and pack sizes.
- Note that the ART and OI dispensing log has 3 different pack sizes for TLD (pack of 30 tablets, pack of 90 tablets and pack of 180 tablets) and 3 pack sizes for TLE400mg (pack of 30 tablets, pack of 90 tablets and pack of 180 tablets).
- Fill the ART and OI dispensing log by indicating date, patient number and number of Packs of TLD 90 pack dispensed for patients' prescriptions requiring multi-month dispensing.



Call 0800-211-046 & 0800-100-066,
text 8080 Toll-free or
visit a health centre near you
for more information.