



WEBSITE

www.who.int

1211 GENEVA 27 SWITZERLAND - TELEPHONE: (41) 22.791.21.11 - FAX: (41) 22.791.31.11 - E-MAIL: inf@who.int

**Note for the media//26
30 November 2005**

PREQUALIFICATION UPDATE

WHO ADDS MORE NEW PRODUCTS TO ITS LIST OF PREQUALIFIED HIV MEDICINES

Geneva - Two HIV/AIDS medicines will be added to the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of prequalified products today. The expansion in choice of therapy these medicines will afford is particularly significant today, on World AIDS Day.

The HIV/AIDS medicines are the antiretrovirals nevirapine, produced by Aurobindo, India, and lamivudine, produced by Aspen Pharmacare Ltd, South Africa. Aspen is the first African producer to be included on the list of WHO prequalified medicines with three other products listed in September — the AIDS medicine Stavudine in three different strengths.

The number of antiretrovirals prequalified by WHO is now 70 (36 from generic manufacturers and 34 from brand name suppliers).

"Choices are expanding and the more choice there is, the more competitive the prices. We are confident that before the end of the year there will be additional inclusions to the prequalified products list," says Dr Hans Hogerzeil, in charge of Medicines Policy and Standards at WHO.

Medicines added today:

- Lamivudine, 150 mg tablets, Aspen Pharmacare Ltd, South Africa
- Nevirapine, 200mg tablets, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, Hyderabad, AP, India

September additions

- Stavudine 40mg Capsules, Aspen Pharmacare Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa
- Stavudine 30mg Capsules, Aspen Pharmacare Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa
- Stavudine 20mg Capsules, Aspen Pharmacare Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa
- Lamivudine/Stavudine/Nevirapine 150mg/40mg/200mg Tablets, Hetero Drugs Ltd. Jeedimetla, Hyderabad India
- Nevirapine 200mg Tablets, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd Paonta Sahib India

For more information please contact Daniela Bagozzi, Communication officer, Health Technologies and Pharmaceutical, Tel: +41 22 791 4544, mobile: +41 79 475 5490, email: bagozzid@who.int. All WHO News Releases, Fact Sheets and Features as well as other information on this subject can be obtained on the Internet on the WHO home page www.who.int.