

Cancer Medicines Available for Procurement through UNICEF

Background

UNICEF's engagement in cancer medicines responds to the growing cancer burden, especially in low- and middle-income countries where nearly 70 per cent of cancer-related deaths occur and childhood cancer survival remains below 30 per cent, compared with over 80 per cent in high-income settings. Limited and delayed access to quality-assured, safe, effective and affordable cancer medicines contributes to this disparity.

UNICEF supports the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer and partnerships such as the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines by helping strengthen uninterrupted supply and address fragile, fragmented markets. These markets are often affected by low volumes, fragmented demand, weak supplier incentives, long lead times, stock-outs, high prices, regulatory barriers and planning gaps. Addressing these constraints requires early demand generation, better forecasting, pooled procurement, long-term arrangements, supplier engagement, quality assurance and stronger procurement planning.

Purpose

This bulletin seeks to provide key information on cancer medicines available for procurement through UNICEF Supply Division.

UNICEF procurement approach

Reliable procurement of cancer medicines is often constrained by small and fragmented demand across countries, diverse treatment protocols and numerous individual products, which together weaken demand visibility and make timely, affordable and quality-assured supply difficult to secure.

Coordinated procurement planning helps address these constraints by improving demand visibility, aligning financing and procurement timelines, supporting regulatory preparation

and enabling earlier supplier engagement – particularly important for paediatric oncology and supportive care medicines where uninterrupted treatment is essential.

With cancer medicines now included in the UNICEF Supply Catalogue, the approach shifts from passive product availability to proactive demand generation and structured procurement planning, positioning UNICEF as a strategic supply partner. In this context, demand generation means supporting countries and partners to identify legitimate programme needs, align medicine selection with treatment protocols and essential medicines lists, quantify demand early, secure financing and place orders within realistic procurement timelines.

Product description

The UNICEF catalogue of supplies includes more than 50 selected cancer-related medicines used in six childhood cancer protocols¹, broader cancer care and supportive treatment. Many of the products are part of other protocols, including adult cancer care and treatment. Product availability, supplier capacity, shelf life, lead time and country-specific regulatory requirements should be confirmed during procurement planning.

Regulatory requirements

Ministries of health and partners should confirm national regulatory and importation requirements early, including product registration status, import permits, special authorization pathways, labelling requirements, shelf-life expectations and cold chain arrangements where applicable.

UNICEF Long Term Arrangement (LTAs)

UNICEF has established long-term arrangements with manufacturers and suppliers for cancer-related medicines listed in Tables 1 and 2.

¹ Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, Burkitt lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, Wilms tumour, retinoblastoma and low-grade glioma.

Products were qualified based on approval by a WHO Listed Authority, including former Stringent Regulatory Authorities, WHO Prequalification where applicable, and other accepted regulatory pathways as outlined in [UNICEF technical requirements for pharmaceutical products](#).

UNICEF Supply Catalogue

Please refer to the [UNICEF Supply Catalogue](#) for more technical information and indicative prices, where applicable.

Table 1: Cancer-related medicines available for procurement through UNICEF Supply Division (non-cold chain)

Product Number	Product Description	Basic description
S1586010	Allopurinol 100mg tabs/PAC-5x10	Allopurinol 100 mg tablets. Blister pack of 10 tablets. 5 blisters in a pack
S1586013	Allopurinol 300mg tabs/PAC-3x10	Allopurinol 300 mg tablets. Blister pack of 10 tablets. 3 blisters in a carton box.
S1586060	Arsenic triox 2mg/ml inj 6ml vI/BOX-10	Arsenic trioxide 2mg/ml injection for intravenous use, in 6ml vials packed in a box of 10
S1586064	Calcium folinate 15mg tab/PAC-1x10	Calcium folinate 15mg tablets in a blister pack of 1x10; 1 blister containing 10 tablets in a pack
S1586000	Carboplatin 10mg/ml inj, 15ml vI/BOX-1	Carboplatin 10mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion, 15ml solution, glass vial, box of 1 vial
S1586001	Carboplatin 10mg/ml inj, 45ml vI/BOX-1	Carboplatin 10mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion, 45ml solution, glass vial, box of 1 vial
S1586003	Cisplatin 1mg/ml inj 50ml vI/BOX-1	Cisplatin 1mg/ml concentrate solution for infusion, 50ml vial, box of 1 vial
S1586005	Cyclophosphamide 500mg pdr.inj vI/BOX-1	Cyclophosphamide 500mg powder for solution for injection, box of 1 vial
S1586062	Cyclophosphamide 50mg tabs/PAC-10x10	Cyclophosphamide 50mg tablets, 10 blisters each containing 10 tablets

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S1586061	Cytarabine 20mg/ml inj 5ml vl/BOX-1	Cytarabine 20mg/ml solution for injection, 5ml single dose glass vial in a box
S1586016	Dacarbazine 100mg pdr.inj vl/BOX-10	Dacarbazine 100mg powder for solution for injection in a vial. Box of 10 vials
S1586017	Dactinomycin 500mcg pdr.inj vl/BOX-1	Dactinomycin 500mcg powder for solution for injection in a vial. Box of 1 vial
S1586031	Dasatinib 20mg tabs/PAC- 5x12	Dasatinib 20mg tablets in a blister pack of 5x12; 5 blisters each containing 12 tablets in a pack
S1586046	Dasatinib 50mg tabs/PAC- 5x12	Dasatinib 50mg tablets in a blister pack of 5x12; 5 blisters each containing 12 tablets in a pack
S1586018	Daunorubicin 20mg pdr.inj vl/BOX-10	Daunorubicin 20mg powder for solution for infusion in a vial. Box of 10 vials
S1586019	Etoposide 20mg/ml inj 5ml vl/BOX-1	Etoposide 20 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion, vial. Box of 1 vial
S1586073	Etoposide 50mg soft caps/PAC- 2x10	Etoposide 50 mg, blister pack of 10 soft capsules, 2 blisters in a carton box. (20 soft capsules in a pack)
S1586074	Fluorouracil 50mg/ml inj 10ml vl/BOX-1	Fluorouracil 50mg/ml solution for injection, 10ml vial. 1 vial in a box.
S1586066	Hydroxycarbamide 1000mg tabs/PAC-30	Hydroxycarbamide 1000mg tablets packed in a HDPE jar of 30 tablets
S1586065	Hydroxycarbamide 100mg tabs/PAC-200	Hydroxycarbamide 100mg tablets packed in a HDPE jar of 200 tablets
S1586033	Hydroxycarbamide 500mg caps/PAC-10x10	Hydroxycarbamide 500mg capsules, 10 blisters each containing 10 capsules in a pack
S1586020	Ifosfamide 1g pdr.inj vl/BOX-1	Ifosfamide 1g powder for solution for injection in a vial. 1 vial in a box
S1586022	Ifosfamide 500mg pdr.inj vl/BOX-1	Ifosfamide 500mg powder for solution for injection in a vial. Box of 1 vial
S1586034	Imatinib 100mg tabs/PAC- 6x10	Imatinib 100mg tablets, 6 blisters each containing 10 tablets.
S1586035	Imatinib 400mg tabs/PAC- 3x10	Imatinib 400mg tablets, 3 blisters each containing 10 tablets.

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S1586023	Irinotecan HCl 20mg/ml inj 2ml vl/BOX-1	Irinotecan Hydrochloride 20 mg/ml concentrate for solution for injection, 2ml vial. 1 vial in a box
S1586024	Mercaptopurine 50mg tabs/PAC-25	Mercaptopurine 50 mg tablets. 25 tablets in an amber glass bottle with a child resistant closure. One bottle in a box
S1586025	Mesna 100mg/ml inj 4ml amp/BOX-15	Mesna 100mg/ml solution for injection, 4ml ampoule. Pack of 15 glass ampoules in a box
S1586037	Methotrexate 2.5mg tabs/PAC-10x10	Methotrexate 2.5mg tablets, 10 blisters each containing 10 tablets
S1586056	Methotrexate 25mg/ml inj 10ml vl/BOX-1	Methotrexate 25mg/ml solution for injection, 10ml vial for IV/IM, intra -arterial or intrathecal use. Each pack 10 ml vial
S1586055	Methotrexate 25mg/ml inj 2ml vl/BOX-1	Methotrexate 25mg/ml solution for injection, 2ml vial for IV/IM, intra -arterial or intrathecal use. Each pack 2 ml vial
S1586067	Methotrexate 25mg/ml inj 40ml vl/BOX-1	Methotrexate 25mg/ml solution for injection for IV/IM, intra -arterial or intrathecal use, 40ml vial, packed in a carton.
S1586070	Procarbazine 50mg caps/PAC-5x10	Procarbazine 50mg hard capsules, 5 blisters each containing 10 capsules
S1586026	Tioguanine 40mg tabs/PAC-25	Tioguanine 40 mg tablets. 25 tablets in an amber glass bottle with a child resistant closure, in a box
S1586027	Tretinoin 10mg caps/PAC-100	Tretinoin 10 mg soft capsules. 100 soft capsules in a glass bottle, in a box

Note: Hydroxycarbamide (also known as hydroxyurea) is also used in Sickle Cell Disease management.

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Table 2. Cancer-related medicines available for procurement through UNICEF Supply Division (cold chain +2 °C to +8 °C)

Product Number	Product Description	Basic description
S1586048	Asparaginase 10,000 U pdr.inj v1/BOX-1	Asparaginase 10,000 units powder for concentrate for solution for infusion, box of 1 vial
S1586038	Bleomycin 15,000 IU pdr.inj v1/BOX-1	Bleomycin 15,000 IU powder for solution for injection/infusion packed in a carton
S1586072	Calcium folinate 10mg/ml 5ml vial/BOX-5	Calcium folinate 10mg/ml solution for injection 5ml vial, in a pack of 5
S1586089	Dacarbazine 100mg pdr.inj v1/BOX-10 cc	Dacarbazine 100mg lyophilized powder for solution for injection in a vial. Box of 10 vials
S1586007	Doxorubicin HCl 2mg/ml,25ml inj v1/BOX-1	Doxorubicin hydrochloride 2mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion, 25ml glass vial
S1586050	Filgrastim 30MU/0.5ml inj PFS/BOX-10	Filgrastim 30MU/0.5ml solution for injection in a pre-filled syringe, pack of 10 pre-filled syringes
S1586049	Filgrastim 30MU/0.5ml inj PFS/BOX-5	Filgrastim 30MU/0.5ml solution for injection or infusion in a pre-filled syringe, pack of 5 pre-filled syringes
S1586051	Filgrastim 30MU/ml inj 1ml v1/BOX-10	Filgrastim 30MU/ml solution for injection or infusion in a single-dose 1ml vial, pack of 10 vials
S1586053	Pegfilgrastim 6mg/0.6ml inj PFS/BOX-1	Pegfilgrastim 6mg/0.6ml solution for injection, 0.6ml pre-filled syringe, box of 1 pre-filled syringe
S1586052	Rituximab 10mg/ml inj 10ml v1/BOX-2	Rituximab 10mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion in 10ml vial, pack of 2 vials
S1586076	Vinblastine 10mg pdr/inj v1 + solv/BOX-1	Vinblastine Sulphate 10mg lyophilized powder for solution for injection in a vial. 1 vial in a box along with 1 vial of solvent/diluent
S1586039	Vincristine 1mg/ml inj 1ml v1/BOX-1	Vincristine sulphate 1mg/ml solution for injection in 1ml vial packed in a carton
S1586087	Vincristine 1mg/ml inj 1ml v1/BOX-10	Vincristine sulfate 1 mg/1 ml solution for injection in vial, box 10 vials

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For cold chain items, minimum order quantities may apply aligned with how the products are packed or cold chain shipment.

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