Technical Bulletin No. 25

unicef for every child

Supply Division, Copenhagen

New products & improved packaging,

Folic Acid Tablets, Iron Tablets and Iron + Folic Acid Fixed Dose Combination Tablets

Background

1 in 3

non-pregnant women worldwide are anaemic[3]

As part of UNICEF's new Strategic Plan (2018-21), there is a focus on improving maternal improved nutrition counselling at ANC (Antenatal Care) and reducing anaemia. Furthermore, the new strategic plan articulates the vision to reach 100 million adolescent girls and boys through services to prevent anaemia and other forms of malnutrition.

Prevention of maternal anaemia is critical to the health and nutrition of the mothers and their babies. Anaemia accounts for 12% of low birth weight, 19% of preterm births, and 18% of perinatal mortality[1]. It is estimated that more than 40% of pregnant women worldwide are anaemic. At least half of this anaemia burden is assumed to be due to iron deficiency[2].

During adolescence, iron requirement increases due to rapid growth, expansion of red cell mass and body tissue. Among adolescent girls and boys, anaemia is a major public health concern and a leading cause of years lived with disability. Also, anaemia impacts the cognitive development, reduces productivity and increases the risk of co-morbidities[5].

In line with the WHO recommendations on Antenatal care (ANC) 2016[4], UNICEF Supply Division has rolled out a range of products for different contexts and target groups, including five new products to cater to the needs of global programs.

New Products

Iron 30mg + Folic acid 400 microgram tablets (Elemental Iron 30 mg as Ferrous fumarate or ferrous gluconate and Folic acid 400 mcg tablets): A product with lower dose iron for settings where iron deficiency is low, and to limit gastric irritation and stomach upsets associated with iron formulations.

Iron 60mg + Folic acid 2800 microgram tablets (Elemental Iron 60 mg as Ferrous gluconate or ferrous gluconate and Folic acid 2800 microgram tablets) - Weekly iron supplementation to be given to menstruating women and adolescents to prevent anaemia.

Folic acid 400 microgram tablets - Periconceptual folic acid product for use for the prevention of neural tube defects in babies. Adjuvant product for anaemia prevention.

Other new formulations are in new convenient blister pack packing, designed for monthly treatment regime and to facilitate patient compliance and dispensing.

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New Arabic, French and English labels:

UNICEF supply's of antianemia products are now in multi-language labels with Arabic, French & English languages to assist with compliance and improved communication to healthcare practitioners and beneficiaries.

Common Side Effects

A common side effect of iron supplementation is gastric irritation, this can be minimized by taking the supplement with food.

Product Range

New Products

Material No.	Material Description	Indicative Price*
S1550004	Iron 60 mg + Folic acid 400 mcg tabs/PAC-3 x10 - Blister. Elemental Iron 60 mg (as Ferrous Fumarate or Ferrous Gluconate) and Folic acid 400 mcg tablets, patient packs with 30 tablets.	USD 0.53
S1550006	Iron 30 mg + Folic acid 400 mcg tabs/PAC-10 x10 - Blister . Elemental Iron 30 mg (as Ferrous Fumarate or Ferrous Gluconate) and Folic acid 400 mcg tablets, blister packs with 10x10 tablets.	USD 1.12
S1550007	Folic acid 400 mcg tabs/PAC-100 - HDPE Bottle. Folic acid 400 mcg, packed in a bottle of 100 tablets	USD 0.92
S1550008	Ferrous sulphate 25 mg/ml oral sol. - Glass Botte -100 mL. Oral solution containing Ferrous Sulfate equivalent to 25mg/ml Elemental Iron in a bottle of 100 mL with a dropper.	USD 0.70
S1550009	Iron 60 mg + Folic acid 2800 mcg tabs/PAC-100 - HDPE Bottle. Elemental Iron 60 mg (as Ferrous Fumarate or Ferrous Gluconate) and Folic acid 2800 mcg tablets, pack of 100 tablets.	USD 1.68

Existing Products

Material No.	Material Description	Indicative Price*
S1550005	Iron 60 mg + Folic acid 400 mcg tabs/PAC-10 x 10- Blister. Elemental Iron 60 mg (as Ferrous Fumarate or Ferrous Gluconate) and Folic acid 400 mcg tablets, blister packs with 10 x 10 tablets.	USD 0.85
S1550010	Iron 60 mg tablets/PAC-100-HDPE Bottle. Elemental Iron 60 mg (as Ferrous Fumarate, Gluconate or Sulphate) tablets, bottle of 100 tablets.	USD 1.28
S1550030	Iron 60 mg + Folic acid 400 mcg tab/PAC-100-HDPE Bottle. Elemental Iron 60 mg (as Ferrous Fumarate 185 mg) and Folic acid. 400 mcg tablets, bottle of 100 tablets.	USD 0.85
S1551005	Folic acid 5 mg tabs/PAC-1000-HDPE Bottle. Folic acid 5 mg, packed in a bottle of 1000 tablets	USD 5.05
S1550180	Ferrous sulphate oral solution 125 mg/ml/BOT-30 mL. Oral solution containing ferrous sulfate equivalent to 25mg/ml Elemental Iron in a bottle of 30 mL with a dropper.	USD 0.46

* Please refer to the web catalogue for the latest prices, these are updated monthly.

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Guidelines for Use:

WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience. World Health Organization 2016.

Guidelines for the Use of Iron Supplements to Prevent and Treat Iron Deficiency Anaemia. International Nutritional Anemia Consultative Group (INACG).

Prevention of neural tube defects: Integrated Management of Pregnancy and Childbirth. WHO 2006.

WHO Recommendations on Adolescent Health Guidelines approved by the WHO Guideline review committee. August 2017.

Guideline: Daily iron supplementation in infants and children. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016.

References

[1] Rahman, M.M., et al., Maternal anaemia and risk of adverse birth and health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: systematic review and meta-analysis. Am J Clin Nutr, 2016. 103(2): p. 495-504.

[2] WHO | Daily iron and folic acid supplementation during pregnancy, e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA).

[3] WHO | Daily iron supplementation in adult women and adolescent girls, e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA).

[4]WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience.2016.

[5]WHO-SEARO, Prevention of deficiency anaemia in adolescents: Role of weekly iron and folic acid supplementation, 2011.

For more information contact:

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