Approved Patient Information Leaflet

SCHEDULING STATUS:

S4

PCH PACLITAXEL 30 (paclitaxel 30 mg/5 ml concentrate for infusion)

PCH PACLITAXEL 100 (paclitaxel 100 mg/16,7 ml concentrate for infusion)

PCH PACLITAXEL 300 (paclitaxel 300 mg/50 ml concentrate for infusion)

Sugar free.

Read this leaflet carefully before you are given PCH PACLITAXEL concentrate for infusion.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- **PCH PACLITAXEL** has been prescribed for you personally and you should not share your medicine with other people. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET:

1. **WHAT PCH PACLITAXEL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**
2. **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU USE PCH PACLITAXEL**
3. **HOW TO USE PCH PACLITAXEL**
4. **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**
5. **HOW TO STORE PCH PACLITAXEL**
6. **CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

1. What PCH PACLITAXEL is and what it is used for:

Paclitaxel belongs to the group of medicines called cytostatic agents, which suppresses the growth and multiplication of cancer cells.

PCH PACLITAXEL is used for the following:

- Treatment to relieve symptoms but not cure stage 3 and 4 advanced local carcinoma of the ovary after surgical resection, in combination with another medicine called cisplatin.
- Treatment to relieve or manage symptoms but not cure metastatic carcinoma of the ovary, after failure of first line or subsequent chemotherapy.
- Treatment of metastatic carcinoma of the breast after failure of combination chemotherapy or relapse within 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy.
- Treatment to relieve symptoms but not cure advanced non-small cell lung cancer in patients who are not candidates for potentially curative surgery and/or radiation therapy.
- First line or combination (with the anticancer medicine, trastuzumab) treatment of breast cancer (advanced or spreading).

2. What you need to know before you use PCH PACLITAXEL:

You should not be administered PCH PACLITAXEL:

- If you are hypersensitive (allergic) to **PCH PACLITAXEL** or any of the other ingredients of **PCH PACLITAXEL**, especially for polyoxyl 35 castor oil.
- If you have a low white blood cell count (< 1,5 x 10^9/l).

Warnings and precautions:

Take special care with PCH PACLITAXEL:

- You should only be administered with **PCH PACLITAXEL** by a doctor skilled in the use of cancer chemotherapeutic medicines.
- Adequate supporting equipment should be available, as serious hypersensitivity reactions may occur.
- **PCH PACLITAXEL** should be diluted before administration.
- If **PCH PACLITAXEL** is administered concomitantly with cisplatin, **PCH PACLITAXEL** should be administered before cisplatin.

- You should be pre-treated before each treatment cycle with corticosteroids, antihistamines and H_2-antagonists (medicines working against allergies) before receiving **PCH PACLITAXEL**. Even after adequate pre-medication, you can experience severe hypersensitivity reactions. These symptoms require treatment and include difficulty breathing, low blood pressure, fast or irregular heartbeat, severe swelling and itching. If you develop severe hypersensitivity reactions (difficulty breathing, low blood pressure and fast or irregular heartbeat that requires treatment), **PCH PACLITAXEL** infusion should be stopped immediately and symptomatic therapy should be given. You should not be administered **PCH PACLITAXEL** again.
- Interruption of therapy is not necessary with minor hypersensitivity reactions such as flushing or rash.
- **PCH PACLITAXEL** injection concentrates contain polyoxyethylated castor oil, if you are sensitive to this ingredient you should not be treated with **PCH PACLITAXEL.**
- If you experience bone marrow suppression (characterised by fatigue, pale skin, lips and nail bed, faster than normal heart rate and dizziness) the **PCH PACLITAXEL** dose should be decreased. Your blood counts should be frequently monitored during **PCH PACLITAXEL** treatment to make sure that you can receive your next course of treatment.
- In some patients severe side effects to the heart have been seen, in which case the appropriate treatment should be established with continuous monitoring of your heart during the follow-up treatment with **PCH PACLITAXEL**.
- There should be a frequent check-up of your vital functions, especially during the first hour of the **PCH PACLITAXEL** infusion.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you have any serious, uncontrolled infection or if you are taking any other medicine.

- You should inform your doctor if you have liver failure or if you know that your liver is not working properly.
- If you experience loss of feeling in certain parts of your body, seizures (fits), temporary loss of consciousness (fainting) due to low blood pressure, loss of full control of movement of your body and muscle weakness.
- You should inform your doctor if you experience severe, uncontrolled diarrhoea. This is a common occurrence if you undergo radiation treatment (radiotherapy) of the lungs whilst receiving **PCH PACLITAXEL.**
- You may experience swelling, redness pain or tenderness around the injection site.
- Safety and effectiveness of **PCH PACLITAXEL** in children has not been established.

Other medicines with PCH PACLITAXEL:

Always tell your healthcare professional if you are taking any other medicine (this includes complementary or traditional medicines).

Please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice if you are using any of the following medicines:

- Cisplatin (used to treat various forms of cancer).
- Ketoconazole (used to treat fungal infections).
- Medicines for treating infections (i.e. antibiotics such erythromycin, rifampicin).
- Fluoxetine (used to help you stabilize your mood).
- Medicines used to treat seizures (epilepsy) (e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin).
- Gemfibrozil (used to help you lower blood lipid levels).
- Cimetidine (used for heartburn or stomach ulcers).
- Medicines used to treat HIV and AIDS (e.g. ritonavir, saquinavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, efavirenz, nevirapine).
- Clopidogrel used to prevent blood clots.

- Doxorubicin and doxorubicinol (an anti-cancer medicine).
- Gemcitabine and fluorouracil (an anti-cancer medicine).
- Undiluted concentrate should not come in contact with plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC) equipment or devices that are used to prepare solutions for infusions. Diluted **PCH PACLITAXEL** should be stored in glass bottles, polypropylene or plastic bags (polypropylene, polyolefin) and administered with polyethylene-lined administration sets, to avoid patient exposure to the plasticizer DEHP, which can be leached from PVC infusion bags or sets.

Please note that not all the medicines that would interact with **PCH PACLITAXEL** are listed above.

Receiving PCH PACLITAXEL with food and drink

Avoid eating foods that may make your nausea worse, such as fatty, fried or spicy foods.

Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility:

PCH PACLITAXEL should not be used if you are pregnant.

Women should be advised not to become pregnant during treatment with **PCH PACLITAXEL** and for at least 6 months after stopping treatment with **PCH PACLITAXEL**.

Tell your doctor right away if you think you have become pregnant while receiving **PCH PACLITAXEL**. Please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice.

If you are being treated with **PCH PACLITAXEL** you should not breastfeed your baby.

Male patients and/or your partners must use contraceptives during treatment and for at least 6 months after stopping treatment with **PCH PACLITAXEL**.

PCH PACLITAXEL may have an anti-fertility effect which could be irreversible. Male patients are therefore advised to seek advice on the conservation of sperm before treatment with **PCH PACLITAXEL.**

Driving and using machine:

PCH PACLITAXEL may cause some people to become nauseous and to have visual disturbances. Do not drive or operate any machinery before you know how **PCH PACLITAXEL** affects you.

Important information about some of the ingredients of PCH PACLITAXEL:

PCH PACLITAXEL contains polyoxyethylated castor oil. You should not be treated with **PCH PACLITAXEL** if you are sensitive to this ingredient.

PCH PACLITAXEL contains ethanol. You should tell your doctor if you suffer from liver disease or epilepsy.

3. How to receive PCH PACLITAXEL:

Do not share medicines prescribed for you with any other person.

Before you receive **PCH PACLITAXEL** you will be given other medicines to reduce the side effects of **PCH PACLITAXEL**.

PCH PACLITAXEL is for intravenous use only and must be diluted prior to use.

The dose of **PCH PACLITAXEL** will be different for different patients.

Your doctor will decide on the suitable dose and the duration of your treatment based on your specific needs and medical condition.

PCH PACLITAXEL can be used alone or in combination with other medicines.

If **PCH PACLITAXEL** infusion comes into contact with your skin, wash immediately and thoroughly with soap and water.

You will not be expected to give yourself **PCH PACLITAXEL**. It will be administered by a person who is qualified to do so.

If you receive more PCH PACLITAXEL than you should:

Since a healthcare professional will administer **PCH PACLITAXEL**, he/she will control the dosage. However, in the event of overdosage your doctor will manage the overdosage.

If you missed a dose of PCH PACLITAXEL:

Do not receive a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses.

4. Possible side effects:

PCH PACLITAXEL can have side effects.

PCH PACLITAXEL also affects the growth of normal cells, which may result in side effects. Some of these side effects may be serious and must be reported to your doctor. Other effects, like hair loss, may not be serious but may cause concern. Some side effects may occur after treatment with **PCH PACLITAXEL** has been stopped.

Not all side effects reported for **PCH PACLITAXEL** are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen or if you experience any untoward effects while **PCH PACLITAXEL** is being administered to you, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice.

If any of the following happens, the administration of **PCH PACLITAXEL** should be stopped and you should go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat, which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- severe rash or itching
- skin and mucous membranes disorder characterised by painful rash and blisters (Steven-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrosis)
- rapid increase in heartbeat
- fainting (due to a fall in your blood pressure)
- yellowing of the skin and eyes, also called jaundice.

These are all very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious allergic reaction to **PCH PACLITAXEL**. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- chest, back and abdominal pains
- flushing
- high blood pressure and blood clots in veins (which can also cause inflammation and pain)
- seizures
- upper respiratory and urinary tract infections (that can result in death due to your body's suppressed immune system).
- a widespread infection causing organ failure and dangerously low blood pressure (septic shock). This is characterised by mental confusion and disorientation, pale and cool arms and legs, chills, difficulty breathing and decreased urine output.

These are all serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

Some side effects that may occur, usually do not need medical attention. These side effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to **PCH PACLITAXEL**. Also, your healthcare professional may be able to tell you about ways to prevent or reduce some of these side effects. Check with your healthcare professional if any of the following side effects continue or are bothersome of if you have any questions about them.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

The following side effects have been reported *frequently*:

- functional disturbances that can lead to inactivity of the intestine resulting in constipation and low blood pressure on rising
- pain in the large joints of the arms and legs
- hair loss
- mild to moderate nausea/vomiting
- diarrhoea
- inflammation of the mouth
- abnormal lowering of the white blood cell count (leucopoenia and neutropenia), characterised by chills, fever, sweating, sores around the mouth and sore throat
- lack of healthy red blood cells (anaemia), characterised by fatigue, shortness of breath, light-headedness and dizziness
- reduced production of blood cells (myelosuppression) which causes fatigue, shortness of breath, dizziness
- weakness, numbness and pain in the hands and feet from nerve damage (peripheral neuropathy)
- abnormally slow heartbeat (bradycardia), low blood pressure
- muscular pain
- pain and swelling at site of administration

The following side effects have been reported *less frequently*:

- skin and nail discolouration
- heart attack and heart problems
- complications from infections (sepsis)
- peritonitis (inflammation of the membrane lining the abdominal wall and covering the abdominal organs, causing abdominal pain or tenderness, bloating, fever, nausea, loss of appetite)

- pneumonia
- acute myeloid leukaemia (cancer of the blood and bone marrow)
- myelodysplastic syndrome (a disorder causing disruption to production of blood cells)
- effect on nerves that control the muscles, resulting in muscle weakness in arms and legs (motor neuropathy)
- effect on brain function or structure (encephalopathy) resulting in decreased ability to reason and concentrate, memory loss, personality change, seizures and twitching, headaches
- inability to coordinate voluntary muscle movements (ataxia)
- hearing loss, ringing in the ears, dizziness due to imbalance in inner ear
- heart muscle problems, heart failure
- coughing, problems with your lungs such as inflammation or accumulation of fluids, which may make it difficult to breathe
- abdominal pain caused by inflammation in your bowel, bowel obstruction or perforation of the wall of your bowel
- inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis)
- swelling or inflammation of the large intestine due to overgrowth of bacteria (pseudomembranous colitis)
- accumulation of serous fluid in the abdomen (ascites),
- inflammation of the oesophagus
- damage to the liver, which may be severe (hepatic necrosis). This may have an effect on brain function and cause hepatic encephalopathy. There have been fatal outcomes.
- detachment of nail from nail bed (onycholysis)

- systemic lupus erythematosus (inflammatory disease caused when the immune system attacks its own tissues) can occur
- fluid accumulation, fever, dehydration, weakness, lack of energy and strength and feeling sick
- increase in muscle waste product (creatinine).
- confusion

The following may also occur:

- disseminated intravascular coagulation, a serious condition that makes people bleed too easily, get blood clots too easily, or both
- visual disturbances such as seeing flashes of light (photopsia) or floaters
- disease of your connective tissue (scleroderma)
- redness and swelling of the palms of your hands or soles of your feet which may cause your skin to peel (Palmar-plantar erythrodyesthesia syndrome)
- a condition called tumour lysis syndrome which may cause high levels of sodium or potassium or low levels of calcium in your blood

If you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

Reporting of side effects:

If you get side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. You can also report side effects to SAHPRA via the **6.04 Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Form**, found online under SAHPRA's publications: https://www.sahpra.org.za/Publications/Index/8. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of **PCH PACLITAXEL**.

5. How to store PCH PACLITAXEL:

- Unopened vials should be stored at or below 25 °C, protected from light in the original carton, until required for use.

- **PCH PACLITAXEL** can be used as a multi-dose preparation. Once opened, the undiluted solution in the vial may be stored at or below 25 °C for 28 days.
- After dilution the infusion is stable for up to 27 hours at or below 25 °C.
- Discard any unused portion.
- STORE ALL MEDICINES OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date printed on the carton or vial.

Return all unused medicine to your pharmacist.

Do not dispose of unused medicine in drains and sewerage systems (e.g. toilets).

6. Contents of the pack and other information:

What PCH PACLITAXEL contains:

Each **PCH PACLITAXEL 30** vial contains 30 mg paclitaxel (6 mg/ml) as the active ingredient.

Each **PCH PACLITAXEL 100** vial contains 100 mg paclitaxel (6 mg/ml) as the active ingredient.

Each **PCH PACLITAXEL 300** vial contains 300 mg paclitaxel (6 mg/ml) as the active ingredient.

The other ingredients are: anhydrous citric acid, anhydrous ethanol, magrogolglycerol ricinoleate.

What PCH PACLITAXEL looks like and contents of the pack:

PCH PACLITAXEL:

PCH PACLITAXEL 30 is a clear, yellowish, slightly viscous solution, essentially free of particles.

PCH PACLITAXEL 100 is a clear, yellowish, slightly viscous solution, essentially free of particles.

PCH PACLITAXEL 300 is a clear, yellowish, slightly viscous solution, essentially free of particles.

CONTENTS OF PACK:

PCH PACLITAXEL 30, 100 and 300 are 5 ml, 16,7 ml and 50 ml respectively clear, colourless glass vials of Type I with a grey bromobutyl rubber stopper with Teflon facing, 20 mm in diameter, with an aluminium seal and plastic snapcap, packed into a cardboard box. Each vial is covered in an outer, transparent PVC sleeve.

HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION:

Teva Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd

Maxwell Office Park

Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City

Midrand

South Africa.

This leaflet was last revised in:

01 June 2021

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

PCH PACLITAXEL 30: A40/26/0609

PCH PACLITAXEL 100: A40/26/0610

PCH PACLITAXEL 300: A40/26/0611