Teva Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd	**Product: FLURACEDYL 250/500/5000/1000/500 mg** **Strength:** Each ml contains 50 mg of 5-fluorouracil as the sodium salt. **Dosage Form:** solution for injection

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET:

SCHEDULING STATUS:

S4

FLURACEDYL 250 mg (solution for injection)

FLURACEDYL 500 mg (solution for injection)

FLURACEDYL 1000 mg (solution for injection)

FLURACEDYL 5000 mg (solution for injection)

5-fluorouracil

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given FLURACEDYL:

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor, pharmacist, nurse or other healthcare provider.
- FLURACEDYL 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 FLURACEDYL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**
2. **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU FLURACEDYL IS ADMINISTERED TO YOU**
3. **HOW TO USE FLURACEDYL**
4. **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**
5. **HOW TO STORE FLURACEDYL**
6. **CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

1. WHAT FLURACEDYL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR:

FLURACEDYL is used to treat cancers of the breast and large bowel (gastrointestinal tract).

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE FLURACEDYL IS ADMINISTERED TO YOU:

FLURACEDYL should not be administered to you:

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to 5-fluorouracil or any of the other ingredients of FLURACEDYL
- if your bone marrow has been damaged by other cancer treatments (including radiotherapy)
- if you have serious impaired liver function
- if you have serious infections (e.g. Herpes zoster, chickenpox)
- if you are treated or have recently been treated with brivudine
- if you know that you do not have any activity of the enzyme dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) (complete DPD deficiency)
- if you are pregnant or breastfeeding your baby
- do not receive vaccinations while receiving treatment with FLURACEDYL.

Warnings and precautions:

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider before being given the injection:

- if you have had high-dose pelvic radiation
- if the number of cells in your blood becomes too low (you will have blood tests to check this)
- if you have oral ulceration (sores in your mouth), fever or bleeding at any site or weakness
- if you have any problems with your kidneys
- if you have any problems with your liver including jaundice (yellowing of the skin)
- if you have suffered from angina (chest pain) or have a history of heart disease. Tell your doctor if you experience any chest pain or abnormal heartbeat during FLURACEDYL treatment
- if you have had an operation recently
- if you know that you have a partial deficiency in the activity of the enzyme dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD).

DPD deficiency:

DPD deficiency is a genetic condition that is not usually associated with health problems unless you receive certain medicines. If you have DPD deficiency and are given FLURACEDYL, you are at an increased risk of severe side effects (listed under **section 4 Possible side effects**). It is recommended to test you for DPD deficiency before start of treatment. If you have no activity of the enzyme you should not take FLURACEDYL. If you have a reduced enzyme activity (partial deficiency) your doctor might prescribe a reduced dose. If you have negative test results for DPD deficiency, severe and life-threatening side effects may still occur. Contact your

healthcare provider immediately, if you experience the following signs or symptoms: new onset of confusion, disorientation, or otherwise altered mental status, difficulty with balance or coordination, visual disturbances. These could be signs of encephalopathy which can lead to coma and death, if left untreated.

- Tell your doctor immediately if you experience the following signs or symptoms: new onset of confusion, disorientation, or otherwise altered mental status, difficulty with balance or co-ordination or visual disturbances. These could be signs of encephalopathy which can lead to coma and death, if left untreated.

Since FLURACEDYL is a highly toxic medicine, it is recommended that both its administration and the treatment of any toxic effects be supervised by a registered doctor who is experienced in cancer treatment.

Take special care with FLURACEDYL:

- your skin may be sensitive to sunlight therefore avoid prolonged exposure

Other medicines and FLURACEDYL:

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

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- calcium leucovorin (also called calcium folinate or folinic acid) - used to reduce the harmful effects of some anti-cancer medicines
- metronidazole (an antibiotic)
- phenytoin (used to control epilepsy/fits and irregular heart rhythm)
- warfarin (used to treat blood clots and thin the blood)
- nucleoside analogues such as sorivudin (antiviral medicines)
- brivudine (antiviral medicine). FLURACEDYL must not be given with brivudine, cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, tamoxifen (anti-cancer medicines).

Pregnancy and breastfeeding and fertility:

FLURACEDYL should not be used during pregnancy. It is important to tell your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant during treatment.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding your baby, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare provider for advice before FLURACEDYL is administered to you.

If you are a woman of childbearing potential you must use an effective method of contraception during FLURACEDYL treatment and for at least 3 months afterwards.

If you are a man you should avoid fathering a child during and for at least 3 months after stopping treatment with FLURACEDYL. You should seek advice on conservation of sperm prior to FLURACEDYL treatment because of the possibility of irreversible infertility due to therapy with FLURACEDYL.

Driving and using machinery:

FLURACEDYL may cause nausea, vomiting and visual changes. Therefore, you should not engage in activities such as driving or operating machinery until you know how FLURACEDYL affects you.

FLURACEDYL contains sodium.

This should be taken into consideration if you are on a sodium controlled diet.

3. HOW TO USE FLURACEDYL:

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

FLURACEDYL can only be administered by injection in the vein or it may be diluted prior to use and be given in a drip (infusion).

The dose of FLURACEDYL will be different for different patients.

The dose of FLURACEDYL given to you will depend on your medical condition, your weight, your blood count, if you have had recent surgery and how well your bone marrow, liver and kidneys are working.

Your doctor will determine how well your bone marrow, liver and kidneys are working by performing blood tests.

Your doctor will tell you how long your treatment with FLURACEDYL will last. Do not stop treatment early without discussing it with your medical practitioner.

If you have the impression that the effect of FLURACEDYL is too strong or too weak, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

You will not be expected to give yourself FLURACEDYL. It will be given to you by a person who is qualified to do so.

If you are given more FLURACEDYL than you should:

Since a healthcare provider will administer FLURACEDYL he/she will control the dosage. However, in the event of overdosage your doctor will manage the overdosage.

If you forget to use FLURACEDYL:

Since a healthcare provider will administer FLURACEDYL, it is unlikely that the dose will be missed.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:

FLURACEDYL can have side effects.

Not all side effects reported or FLURACEDYL are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen or if you experience any untoward effects while taking FLURACEDYL, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare provider for advice.

If any of the following happens, tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- severe allergic reaction – you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel like you are going to faint
- your bowel motions are blood stained or black
- very severe runny stomach (diarrhoea)
- your mouth becomes sore or develops ulcers
- bleeding from anywhere on your body
- numbness, tingling or tremor in the hands or feet
- quickening of your heart rate and breathlessness
- chest pains
- shortness of breath

- feeling confused or feeling unsteady on your feet, coordination problems in arms and legs, thinking/speech difficulties, vision/memory problems.

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

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

Frequent side effects:

- infections
- sepsis (your body's extreme response to infection which can cause a high fever, high heart rate or low blood pressure, confusion or disorientation, shortness of breath)
- high fever and a sharp drop in the circulating white blood cells

Less frequent side effects:

- impaired coordination, stumbling, slurred speech, vocal changes
- eye irritation.

Frequency unknown:

- decrease or stopping in production of blood cells (bone marrow failure)
- an abnormally low level of neutrophils in the blood (neutropenia)
- an abnormally low level of platelets in the blood (thrombocytopenia)
- an abnormally low number of white blood cells in the circulating blood (leukopenia)
- a severe and dangerous lowered white blood cell count (agranulocytosis)
- low number of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets (pancytopenia)
- low number of circulating red blood cells (anaemia)
- severe allergic reaction – you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel you are going to faint
- confusion, exaggerated feeling of physical and emotional wellbeing, disorientation
- repetitive, uncontrolled eye movements

- headache, dizziness
- movement disorders
- leukoencephalopathy – disease affecting the white substance of the brain which can include loss of the ability to coordinate muscular movements
- weakness, numbness or pain in hands and feet
- hyperammonemic encephalopathy (brain dysfunction caused by elevated ammonia)
- increased secretion of tears
- visual changes including blurred vision and double vision
- light sensitivity
- chest pain, irregular heartbeat, sudden cessation of heartbeat and cardiac function
- low blood pressure
- development of blood clots in arteries or veins
- nosebleed
- difficulty breathing
- inflammation of the mucous lining including the mouth, throat and rectum
- gastrointestinal ulceration and bleeding
- hand-foot syndrome (painful swelling and redness of palms and soles of feet), dry skin, small tears on skin, redness, skins sensitivity to sunlight, vein pigmentation, nail disorder including loss of nails
- sperm production or ovulation disorder
- dehydration, injection site reactions
- increase of total thyroxine (T4) and total triiodothyronine (T3)
- ischaemic ECG abnormalities (an insufficient supply of blood to the heart).

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 FLURACEDYL.

5. HOW TO STORE FLURACEDYL:

Store all medicines out of reach of children.

Store at or below 25 °C and protect from light. Do not refrigerate or freeze.

Store in the original package.

The 5 ml, 10 ml and 20 ml vials are single dose containers and any unused portion should be discarded.

The multidose 100 ml vial/infusion bottle may be kept for 8 hours after opening when stored at or below 25 °C protected from light.

Reconstituted product with 5 % glucose or saline solution may be kept for 48 hours.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION:

What FLURACEDYL contains:

Each ml of FLURACEDYL contains 50 mg of 5-fluorouracil as the sodium salt.

The other ingredient is water for injection.

What FLURACEDYL looks like and contents of the pack:

Clear, colourless to almost colourless solution, free from particles.

FLURACEDYL 250 mg: 5 ml clear colourless glass vials for single use.

FLURACEDYL 500 mg: 10 ml clear colourless glass vials for single use.

FLURACEDYL 1000 mg: 20 ml clear colourless glass vials for single use.

FLURACEDYL 5000 mg: 100 ml clear colourless glass multidose vials or infusion bottles.

Each vial is packed in a PVC sleeve and packed in an outer cardboard carton.

Holder of Certificate of Registration:

Teva Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd.

Maxwell Office Park

Magwa Crescent West

Waterfall City,

Midrand,

2090

Tel: (011) 055 0200

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