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Hetero begins phased shipments of generic lenacapavir to Africa for HIV prevention

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Hetero introduces its generic lenacapavir under the brand names Lexapir and Capvic



Hetero, a Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical manufacturer, has announced the commencement of phased shipments of generic injectable lenacapavir for HIV prevention to Africa, with a planned initial supply of 300,000 vials across Zambia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, placing Hetero among the first globally to launch a generic version of this breakthrough HIV prevention medicine.

Hetero expects to introduce its generic oral initiation tablets by January 2027, supporting the complete lenacapavir pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) regimen alongside the injectable formulation. In the interim, oral initiation tablets will continue to be supplied by Gilead, supporting the availability of the oral component required for PrEP initiation, subject to applicable country-level requirements.

The launch marks a significant milestone in expanding access to long-acting HIV prevention. Arriving in Africa approximately one year after the original lenacapavir product's introduction, Hetero's generic supplies demonstrate the impact of Gilead Sciences' voluntary licensing, coordinated investment and manufacturing readiness in accelerating affordable access to critical medicines.

Administered twice yearly, injectable lenacapavir is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an additional PrEP option and has been shown in clinical trials to be highly effective at reducing the risk of HIV acquisition. The availability of affordable generic supply offers countries an important opportunity to expand HIV prevention programmes and reach more people at risk of infection.

The launch follows Gilead Sciences' non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreements with six generic manufacturers, enabling the manufacture and supply of generic lenacapavir across 120 eligible countries.

Following these initial shipments, Hetero plans to supply generic lenacapavir to 10 additional African countries in early 2027. The company is also prepared to supply all other countries covered by its voluntary licence as approvals from national drug regulatory authorities are obtained, subject to procurement arrangements and national introduction plans. Hetero also plans to launch generic lenacapavir in India over the coming months, subject to applicable regulatory approvals.