



Media Statement
For immediate release
04 October 2017

UPDATE: PHARMACEUTICAL INVESTIGATIONS

On 13 June 2017, the Commission initiated three investigations against certain pharmaceutical companies for suspected abuse of dominance and excessive pricing in the provision of specific cancer medicines in South Africa.

The initiations were against Roche Holding AG (Roche) and Genentech Inc. (Genentech); Pfizer Inc. (Pfizer) and Equity (Pty) Ltd (Equity); and Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd (Aspen).

Based on the information gathered to date, the Commission has decided to drop the investigation against Aspen and Equity because an excessive pricing case cannot be sustained against them.

In addition, in respect of Aspen, the investigation revealed that the revenues attributable to Myleran, Alkeran and Leukeran are very low as they were at the end of their lifespans (very few patients are on them).

In respect of Equity, the investigation revealed that the drug, Xalkori Crizotinib (Xalkori), is not yet registered in South Africa. It was imported once with the permission of Medicines Control Council. The high price charged by Equity was as a result of high cost incurred in importing the product from Germany. It is, therefore, unlikely that the price charged by Equity could pass the test for excessive pricing.

The Commission continues to investigate the complaints initiated against Roche, Genentech and Pfizer.

[ENDS]

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