



PPBU Update: Life Healthcare Pharmacy, Procurement and Product Review

The PPBU met with representatives from Life Healthcare to discuss pharmaceutical procurement processes, formulary governance and several medication-related concerns raised by SASA members, including Rocuronium, Sugammadex and Tranexamic Acid. Life Healthcare presented its multidisciplinary procurement and formulary review process, highlighting the balance between patient safety, evidence-based practice, medication supply security and healthcare sustainability.

SASA welcomed the opportunity for open discussion and reiterated that while cost-effectiveness is an important consideration, anaesthesiologists remain professionally responsible for the medications they administer. Consequently, meaningful clinical input into formulary decisions and product selection is essential. Concerns regarding variability in the clinical performance of certain generic medications and the potential impact on patient safety and downstream healthcare costs were discussed.

A key outcome of the meeting was agreement to improve communication between SASA and Life Healthcare. Life Healthcare will notify SASA when formulary reviews relevant to anaesthesia are planned, enabling the PPBU to distribute surveys and requests for feedback through SASA's communication channels. Regular meetings between SASA PPBU and Life Healthcare have also been agreed to facilitate ongoing collaboration and timely discussion of emerging issues.

Airway Management Product Review – Your Feedback Is Needed

Life Healthcare is currently conducting an Airway Management Product Review at selected hospitals, with several airway management products being evaluated by theatre teams and doctors. The evaluation is open until 17 August 2026, after which the feedback will be consolidated and considered as part of future decisions regarding product selection and supplier contracting.

SASA strongly encourages anaesthesiologists working at the participating hospitals to look out for communications from their theatre and pharmacy teams and to participate in the survey. This is an important opportunity to ensure that specialist anaesthetic experience and clinical feedback are incorporated into decisions about the airway products used in our theatres.

If you work at one of the hospitals below and have not received the survey or had an opportunity to evaluate the products, please contact your theatre or pharmacy management team for further information.

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Participating Life Healthcare hospitals:

Life Anncron Hospital	Life Bay View Private Hospital
Life Beacon Bay Private Hospital	Life Brenthurst Hospital
Life Brooklyn Day Hospital	Life Carstenhof Hospital
Life Chatsmed Garden Hospital	Life Cosmos Hospital
Life Crompton Hospital	Life Entabeni Hospital
Life Eugene Marais Hospital	Life Faerie Glen Hospital
Life Flora Hospital	Life Groenkloof Hospital
Life Hilton Private Hospital	Life Kingsbury Hospital
Life Mercantile Hospital	Life Midmed Hospital
Life Peglerae Hospital (Pty) Ltd	Life Pretoria North Day Clinic
Life Roseacres Hospital	Life Rosepark Hospital
Life Springs Parkland Hospital	Life St Dominic's Hospital
Life St George's Hospital	Life St James Hospital
Life The Glynnwood Hospital	Life Vincent Pallotti Hospital
Life Westville Hospital	Life Wilgeheuwel Hospital
Life Wilgers Hospital	

Please participate where possible. The more anaesthesiologists who provide practical clinical feedback, the stronger the specialist input available to inform Life Healthcare's future product and procurement decisions.

Member Feedback Is Essential

SASA encourages members to continue reporting any concerns regarding medication performance, packaging, labelling or suspected adverse drug reactions encountered in clinical practice.

- Report product complaints through your hospital pharmacy and established hospital reporting systems.

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- Report suspected adverse drug reactions or concerns regarding medication efficacy to SAHPRA through the appropriate pharmacovigilance processes.
- Notify the SASA PPBU of significant concerns or recurring issues so that trends can be identified and raised directly with the relevant Life Healthcare clinical and pharmacy representatives during ongoing engagements.

One of the challenges identified during the meeting was that feedback submitted through existing channels is not always visible to clinicians, creating the perception that concerns are not reaching the appropriate decision-makers. The PPBU is therefore working with Life Healthcare to streamline these communication pathways so that reports are directed to the relevant pharmacy and procurement teams, ensuring concerns are appropriately reviewed, investigated and followed up.

The PPBU appreciates members who continue to provide constructive feedback. Your experiences are essential in ensuring that future procurement decisions continue to balance patient safety, clinical effectiveness and the sustainability of private healthcare.

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