

MH 78:9 V4
HPRG (EB) 006:03/34024

MOH-MHC-0040-2026
HSA Circular No. 01/2026

30 April 2026

All registered medical practitioners
All providers licensed under the Healthcare Services Act

Dear colleagues

ETOMIDATE TO BE DELISTED FROM THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT (MDA) AND LISTED AS A SPECIFIED PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE (SPS) UNDER THE TOBACCO AND VAPORISERS CONTROL ACT (TVCA)

1 With reference to MOH Circular No. 54/2025 and HSA Circular No. 02/2025 issued on 29 August 2025, this circular serves to update on the changes to the regulatory controls for etomidate, which will take effect from 1 May 2026.

Etomidate and its analogues to be controlled under the TVCA as SPS

2 Etomidate and its analogues were temporarily listed as Class C controlled drugs (CD) under the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) since 1 September 2025, to curb their growing trend of abuse in Singapore. With effect from 1 May 2026, they will be delisted from the MDA and regulated as SPS under TVCA.

3 The Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act (TCASA) has been amended by the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) (Amendment) and Other Matters Act 2026 and renamed as the TVCA. The TVCA will control the advertising, sale, import, possession and use of tobacco products, vaporisers and imitation tobacco products, the consumption of SPS, and provide powers to rehabilitate users of vaporisers and SPS abusers. SPS are substances specified in the Schedule of the TVCA; etomidate and its analogues are the first substances to be listed in this Schedule.

4 The penalties for import and supply imposed against SPS are substantial and mirror that of a Class C Controlled Drug. The new penalties under the TVCA for the various SPS-related offences are summarised below:

- Unauthorised consumption of SPS – a fine not exceeding \$20,000, or imprisonment of up to 10 years, or both;

- Import of SPS products – 3 to 20 years’ imprisonment and 5 to 15 strokes of the cane;
- Sale and supply of SPS products – 2 to 10 years’ imprisonment and 2 to 5 strokes of the cane.

Handling of pharmaceutical dosage forms of etomidate

5 As etomidate and its analogues are no longer classified as CDs with effect from 1 May 2026, the CD controls on supply documentation and disposal of CDs will no longer apply. Nonetheless, healthcare institutions and healthcare professionals are encouraged to continue adopting appropriate measures to ensure secure, traceable and proper storage and supply of etomidate injections, in accordance with established good practices. The CD register and all relevant records of past transactions involving etomidate should be maintained for a period of at least 3 years from 1 May 2026.


6 MOH/HSA have prepared a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the HSA website, to provide guidance and clarification on the handling of etomidate and vape abusers.



<https://www.hsa.gov.sg/tobacco-regulation/vaping-enforcement>

7 For further queries regarding this circular, please contact Case Mgmt Agency Support@HSA.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully

	
<p>Professor Kenneth Mak Director-General of Health Ministry of Health, Singapore</p>	<p>Adj Prof (Dr) Raymond Chua Chief Executive Officer Health Sciences Authority</p>