

14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Attn All Consultants  
Medical Practitioners  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses

**RE: Medicine Alert - Oral Iron tablets**

Oral Iron tablets are indicated for the prevention and treatment of iron deficiency states/anaemia. As per Government Formulary List policies, only one preparation of oral iron will be available at any one time.

The dose of the iron salt should be adjusted according to the amount of elemental iron required. Oral iron can be prescribed through Schedule V entitlement and through Schedule II entitlement (Pink Card) by Medical Practitioners.

Kindly note that all stock of Ferrous gluconate 300mg tablets equivalent to 35mg of elemental iron have been exhausted.

Currently, the oral iron being procured is dried Ferrous Sulphate Ph.Eur. equivalent to 65mg elemental iron.

Two tablets of Ferrous Gluconate 300mg [of 35mg elemental iron] are equivalent to one tablet of Ferrous sulphate [of 65mg of elemental iron].

Please take the above into consideration when ordering, prescribing and dispensing Oral iron tablets.

Furthermore, the annual demand for oral iron tablets (A102) should be revised to reflect the new dosage strength available. Please avoid ordering Ferrous gluconate tablets (A101).

For your attention, please.

Josette Sciberras  
Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner  
Head, Healthcare Intelligence Unit