

DIVIZJONI TAS-SAHHA

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HEALTH DIVISION

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DH Circular No 250/2006

10th August 2006

**Attention all Medical Practitioners
Pharmacists**

Re: Statins Interchange Clarification

Following several reports received from the Government pharmacies it is felt that a clarification of DH Circular 234/2006 of the 19th of July 2006 be made.

The Health Division is informed that many patients who were previously on 80mg fluvastatin are being prescribed 40mg (2 x 20mg) simvastatin. You are reminded that simvastatin 20mg is therapeutically equivalent to fluvastatin 80mg and thus the two medicinal products are interchangeable.

Patients taking **one** tablet of fluvastatin 80mg XL daily should be changed over to **one** tablet of simvastatin 20mg daily. The patient should be monitored closely. After 6 months treatment with 20mg of simvastatin daily, the lipid profile should be investigated and the dose of simvastatin adjusted if and as necessary.

Patients who are currently on simvastatin should not have any change in treatment. Simvastatin 20mg tablets will only replace fluvastatin 80mg XL tablets and not the simvastatin 10mg tablets.

Your adherence to the above protocol is kindly solicited.

Dr. R. Busuttil
Director General (Health)