

## DIVIZJONI TAS-SAHHA

Palazzo Castellania, 15, Triq il-Merkanti,  
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Malta



## HEALTH DIVISION

Palazzo Castellania, 15 Merchants Street,  
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Malta

**DH Circular No 311/2006**  
**DH 2054/2006**

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**Attention all Consultants**  
**Medical Officers**  
**Pharmacists**

### **Re: Entitlement to Statins**

Evidence shows that HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins) reduce morbidity and mortality in patients at an increased risk of cardiovascular events, as well as reduce the risk of developing coronary heart disease irrespective of age.

The protocol for the entitlement of Statins has been amended to include patients who are *over 75 years* of age and with an LDL level greater than or equal to 4.1mmol/L. This implies that new patients, as well as patients already stabilized on statin therapy will be entitled to free treatment beyond the 75 years of age.

Further more patients with *documented ischaemic heart disease* following (i) an acute Myocardial Infarction, or (ii) Percutaneous Coronary Interventions, or (iii) a Coronary Artery Bypass, can be started on statin treatment irrespective of their LDL cholesterol levels.

In view of these amendments the relevant protocol is being attached for reference. In the meantime requests for statins are to be submitted by the prescribing consultants, on the carbonized triplicate application form that is currently available. Until this form is updated prescribers are kindly asked to indicate clearly the criteria for documented ischaemic heart disease, especially where the LDL cholesterol level is not required.

For your attention please,

Dr. R. Busuttil  
Director General (Health)

## **HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins)**

**Prescriber Criteria:** Consultant

**Clinical Indications:** Hypercholesterolaemia

### **Conditions qualifying patients for drug:**

Treatment with statins is provided to *all patients irrespective of their age*, when any of the following criteria are met with:

1. *Irrespective of the LDL cholesterol level with :*
  - a) documented ischaemic heart disease following -
    - i) an acute myocardial infarction, OR
    - ii) a percutaneous coronary intervention, OR
    - iii) a coronary artery bypass
  - b) familial (type 2) hypercholesterolaemia
  
2. *LDL cholesterol  $\geq 4.1$ mmol/L with either :*
  - a) documented ischaemic heart disease, other than the conditions listed in point 1a above, OR
  - b) diabetes mellitus
  
3. *LDL cholesterol  $\geq 4.1$ mmol/L, without ischaemic heart disease but with 2 or more of the following risk factors:*
  - c) hypertension (blood pressure persistently above 160/95mmHg)
  - d) family history for IHD (first degree relatives aged  $\leq 50$ )
  - e) cerebral/peripheral vascular disease
  - d) obesity (BMI  $> 35\%$ )

**Investigations prior to starting treatment:** Fasting lipid profile  
Liver function tests  
Creatine kinase estimation  
Thyroid function tests  
Fasting blood glucose

**Objective indicators of efficacy:** Blood cholesterol levels.

**Patient Consent form:** No need for patient consent form or other declaration. However, all patients have to be informed of potential side-effects by the responsible physician.

**Duration of approval:** 3 years

**Specific request form available (carbonized in triplicate).**

