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**Attention all Consultants
Doctors
Pharmacists**

Re: Procedure for authorisation of Schedule V treatment by the Department of Psychiatry

The procedure for the authorisation of Schedule V treatment by the department of Psychiatry has been changed according to the Better Regulations Initiative (Letter-Circular MHEC 41/06 of 9th February 2006). The changes are as follows:

1. When a patient requires Schedule V treatment it is not necessary to itemise the drugs to be prescribed. Instead, the phrase "Psychiatric Treatment" is to be inserted. This phrase includes the treatment as specified by the Department of Psychiatry inclusive of ancillary non-psychotropic treatment.
2. The application is to be signed by a consultant psychiatrist.
3. The period of validity will be either specified or "indefinite".
4. Where regular stabilised treatment is to be prescribed by doctors outside the Department of Psychiatry, the green Treatment Card (DH 914, PHCD rec/16) is to be filled in and endorsed.
5. Although protocol regulated and non-formulary medication will not be specified on the Schedule V card, the patient must present the relevant DTC approval letter, both to the prescribing doctor and to the dispenser at the pharmacy.

Kindly be guided accordingly

Dr. R. Busuttil
Director General (Health)