



**Strategy and Sustainability Division
MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL POLICY**

DH CIRCULAR No. 237/2009

MHE 333/2007

25th September 2009

Attention all Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Updated Government Formulary List (September 2009)

The **Directorate for Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring (DPPM)** within the Strategy and Sustainability Division ensures quality in the overall drug use process by playing a responsible role for the ongoing management of the Government Formulary. The main objective is to optimize patient care through the rational use of drugs within the healthcare setting. The Government Formulary List (GFL) is reviewed and updated periodically through removal and addition of medicines, removal/changes in medicines' protocols and amendments in entitlement and prescriber criteria.

The DPPM has now issued the updated Government Formulary List (September 2009). The GFL includes medicinal products, vitamins, food supplements, borderline substances, and medical devices in combination with medicines. The medicinal products are either listed as non-proprietary medicines according to the International Non-proprietary Name (INN), or are listed as a therapeutic class. Each medicinal product is classified according to the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification (ATC Code), depending on the indications for which it is approved.

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Other details included in the Government Formulary List include the Active Ingredient, Dosage form and strength, Disease category, prescriber criteria, department use, protocol, unlicensed and pink card positive criteria. Two separate formularies are now available:

1. The Hospital Formulary List

This is a list of all the formulary medicines procured by the Government and is intended for Inpatients use.

2. The Out Patients Formulary List

This list is intended for use by Government Out-Patients Pharmacies and Private Pharmacies operating the Pharmacy of your own choice (POYC) scheme. For this purpose, the Pink card positive drugs were further classified into:

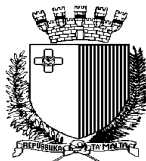
- Acute (A),
- Chronic (C) and
- Both acute and chronic use (B) (*Appendix 1*).

The link for the Government formulary is: <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=740> and the link for the protocols is: <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=739>. The recent GFL updates are listed in a table which is also available on the same website links.

Feedback regarding the Government Formulary List can be sent through the DPPM generic email: dppm.mhec@gov.mt.

For your attention please.

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Director General



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Appendix 1: Classification of Pink card positive drugs

(A)– Items for Acute Use

Medicines are classified as (A) for conditions that require a rapid onset and a short duration of treatment. These will be dispensed from the Government Pharmacies only.

(C)– Items for Chronic Use

Medicines are classified as (C) if they are utilized for the treatment of an ongoing or recurring condition. These will be dispensed from POYC pharmacies only (where the POYC Scheme was launched).

(B)– Items for Both Acute and Chronic use

The first supply of these medicines categorized as (B) will be dispensed from Government pharmacies with subsequent supplies to be collected from POYC pharmacies (where the POYC Scheme was launched).

Categorization can change from (B) to (C) if medicine is required **for more than 3 times in 6 consecutive months**.

Medicinals will be dispensed from POYC pharmacies if patient presents:

1. A General Practitioner note for chronic use for GP items
2. A Consultant form (SLH 145) for chronic use for consultant items