



**Strategy and Sustainability Division
Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care**

27/07/2010

DH Circular No.175/2010
DH 2670/2010

Attention all Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Nursing Officers
Pharmacy Technicians

Re: Entitlement for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies

To date patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies were receiving free treatment through various institutional approvals. In order to streamline and facilitate the process, patients with spinal cord pathologies will henceforth be entitled to free pharmaceuticals as available on the Government Formulary List through an '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' according to the Policy for Entitlement for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies.

The consultant responsible for care of the patient with Spinal Cord Pathologies is required to follow the procedure laid out in the attached policy for patients with spinal cord pathologies.

Should any clarification or further information be required kindly contact the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring on:

E-mail: dppm.mhec@gov.mt
Tel. No.: 2595 5232
Fax:: 2595 5236

Your compliance is kindly solicited.

For your attention please.

Regards,

Director General
Strategy and Sustainability



DIRECTORATE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY AND MONITORING
Strategy and Sustainability Division
Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care

DPPM001/01/D1

Entitlement Policy for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies

Policy Statement

This policy should ensure provision of free pharmaceuticals to patients suffering from a spinal injury through an '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' (Appendix 1 – (IED)/DPPM001/01/D1).

Policy Scope

To date patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies were receiving free treatment through various institutional approvals. In order to streamline and facilitate the process, patients with spinal cord pathologies will henceforth be entitled to free pharmaceuticals as available on the Government Formulary List through an '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' according to the Policy for Entitlement for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies.

Purpose

The purpose of the 'Entitlement Policy for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies' is to set out the guidelines which allow prescribers to request free pharmaceuticals to patients through the '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' issued by the Medicines Entitlement Unit (Directorate of Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring (DPPM)).

Definition

For the provision of this policy the consultant responsible for the care of the spinal cord pathology patient may be: Consultant Rehabilitation, Consultant Neurologist, Consultant Pediatrician, Consultant (Pain). **Consultant** responsible for care of the spinal cord pathology patient fills in the request form for pharmaceuticals and compiles the case summary. These documents are then forwarded to the Director DPPM for evaluation.



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The **Medicines Entitlement Unit** (Directorate of Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring (DPPM)), is responsible for the issuance of the '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' (Appendix 1– (IED)/DPPM001/01/D1).

An '*Interim Entitlement Document for Spinal Cord Pathologies*' may be issued by the Medicines Entitlement Unit (Directorate of Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring (DPPM)) in the case where a patient suffering from spinal cord pathologies is not entitled to free pharmaceuticals through pink card entitlement based on means testing. The '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' will allow the patient to be entitled to free medicines according to the Government Formulary List (GFL).

Procedure

1. When the patient suffering from spinal injury is admitted as an in-patient in care the consultant responsible for care of the spinal injury patient, is requested to fill correctly the request form (Appendix 2 – (RIED)/DPPM001/01/D1) for the '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*'.
2. The patients' details including the patient's name and surname, address, I.D., telephone number, age and consultant's name should be included on the form. The expected duration of treatment should also be indicated.
3. For every medicinal requested the dosage form, strength and regimen has to be specified on the form.
4. Furthermore, together with the first application, the consultant is also requested to present a detailed case summary explaining the nature of spinal cord pathologies and resultant disabilities.
5. The request form and the case summary are to be sent directly to the Medicines Entitlement Unit (Directorate of Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring (DPPM)).
6. The request received by the pharmacists of the Medicines Entitlement Unit is assessed according to the policy.



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7. If the request is approved the Medicines Entitlement Unit issues an '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*'. The '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' should be endorsed by the Director, DPPM.
8. Patients who are in possession of an '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' will be eligible only for free pharmaceuticals as listed on the '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*'.
9. If there is a change in treatment, the consultant has to re-apply using the same form for inclusion/deletion of medical treatment.
10. When a renewal is issued, the expired/old document must be returned.
11. If the '*Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies*' is lost, the patient has to take an *affidavit* so that a new document may be issued.
12. The staff at the Medicines Entitlement Unit will be responsible for storing the relevant information in the appropriate databases for monitoring purposes.

Data Protection and Retention Policy

Patient details are required in order to process the request forms and for monitoring purposes, however information will be processed and stored at the Medicines Entitlement Unit according to data protection regulations and the Retention Policy as specified by the DPPM.



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(RIED)/DPPM001/01/D1

Request for Interim Entitlement Document for Patients with Spinal Cord Pathologies

Date:		
Name and Surname of Patient:		
I.D.:	Date of Birth:	Age:
Address:		
Post code:	Telephone number:	

Treatment		
Medicines	Dosage Forms	Dosage Regimen

Duration of Treatment:

Signature of Consultant:
Name in Block Letters:



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(IED)/DPPM001/01/D1

Interim Entitlement Document for Spinal Injury Patients

Date:		
Name and Surname of Patient:		
I.D.:	Date of Birth:	Age:
Address:		
Post code:	Telephone number:	
Name of Consultant:		
Treatment		
Medicines Approved	Dosage Forms	Dosage Regimen
Approved for the duration of:		

Signature: _____
Name In Block Letters: _____
Medicines Approval Section Pharmacist
Medicines Entitlement Unit
Directorate of Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring