



Strategy and Sustainability Division
MINISTRY FOR HEALTH, THE ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY CARE

DH CIRCULAR No.174/2011

DH 3807/2011

9th August 2011

Attention all Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Deletion of Ticlopidine & changeover to clopidogrel

Following the introduction of clopidogrel tablets onto the Government Formulary List, the deletion of Ticlopidine 250mg tablets is being undertaken. Ticlopidine was a protocol-regulated item (Protocol 190), issued for an antiplatelet effect, to be used:

- In patients undergoing angioplasties in whom a stent needs to be inserted. In such cases, an antiplatelet drug needs to be supplied for a one month period in combination with aspirin. It thus replaces the use of warfarin which would require continuous INR monitoring and the risk of bleeding.
- In patients in whom aspirin is contra-indicated.

As a one time exercise, patients who currently have a valid permit for ticlopidine are being changed over automatically to Clopidogrel 75mg. Clinicians are reminded that apart from this one time changeover exercise, the protocol for patients to be started on clopidogrel applies.

Protocol 276 –

Patients:

- undergoing a percutaneous coronary intervention, or
- admitted to Hospital with acute coronary syndrome
 - Daily dose: 75mg once daily
 - Duration of treatment: up to 12 months

These patients are being issued with a new approval sent together with a covering note (attached). Patients are being directed to their medical doctor to be prescribed clopidogrel at the maintenance dose of 75mg daily.

Patients who are in possession of a Schedule V card with ‘Ticlopidine’ listed as one of their treatment, have a valid approval for ‘Clopidogrel’ and a prescription for ‘Clopidogrel’, can be dispensed clopidogrel 75mg daily.

Thank you

For your attention, please

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Director General

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Dear sir/madam,

We would like to inform you that since **Clopidogrel** has now been introduced onto the Government formulary, **Ticlopidine** has now been deleted. As agreed with the Clinical Specialists, patients who have a valid permit for ticlopidine are being switched to clopidogrel automatically. The new valid approval is being sent to you enclosed with this letter. You are kindly requested to go to your medical doctor for a prescription for clopidogrel, to be used next time you are due for your medicine. The dose of clopidogrel is 75mg daily.

IMP: If you had already been on clopidogrel, but your Consultant had changed treatment to ticlopidine because of intolerance or allergy to the medicine, please refer to your pharmacist and/or Consultant for advice.

Thank you

Sinjur/Sinjura,

Nixtiequ ninfurmaww li peress li l-mediċina **Clopidogrel** giet introdotta fil-formularju tal-gvern, il-mediċina **Ticlopidine** giet imneħħija. Għaldaqstant, għe miftiehem mal-esperti kliniċi biex pazjenti li għandhom permess validu tat-Ticlopidine, jibdew jieħdu Clopidogrel. Flimkien ma' din l-ittra qed nibgħatulek il-permess il-ġdid. Inti għentilment mitlub tmur għand it-tabib tiegħek biex jagħmillek riċetta għal Clopidogrel, biex tużaha meta jmissek tieħu l-mediċina. Id-doża ta' Clopidogrel hija ta' 75mg darba kuljum.

IMP: Jekk xi darba kont tieħu Clopidogrel, imma il-konsulent biddillek il-mediċina għal Ticlopidine minhabba xi allergija jew effetti oħra li kienet qed tagħmillek Clopidogrel, inti mitlub tmur għand l-ispizjar tiegħek u/jew il-Konsulent biex jiggwidak.

Grazzi