



**CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
MINISTRY FOR HEALTH, THE ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY CARE**

**DH CIRCULAR No.209/2011**

**DH: 4497/2011**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Attention All:** Consultants  
Medical Officers  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses

**Re: Ertapenem 1g Powder for Solution for Infusion**

Ertapenem 1g Powder for Solution for Infusion has been recommended by the Government Formulary List Advisory Committee and approved by the Superintendent of Public Health for introduction onto the Government Formulary List.

Infectious Diseases Consultants and Consultants (after discussion with the Mater Dei Hospital Antibiotic Team) can prescribe Ertapenem for the treatment of:

- i. intra-abdominal and gynaecological infections;
- ii. acute pneumonia;
- iii. limb threatening diabetic foot and soft tissue infections, caused by Gram negative Enterobacteriaceae bacteria which are producers of extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL), as confirmed by culture and sensitivity laboratory results.

Ertapenem powder for solution for infusion is protocol-regulated with protocol number 289 (attached).

Ertapenem, *1g Powder for Solution for Infusion* has been procured through the Centralised Procurement Unit and is now available for use as per protocol.

Thank you

For your attention, please

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat  
Chief Medical Officer

## **Ertapenem injections**

**Prescriber Criteria:** Consultant Infectious Diseases  
Consultant (after discussion with the Mater Dei Hospital Antibiotic Team)

**In-patients use:**

Ertapenem is reserved for the treatment of:

- intra-abdominal and gynaecological infections;
- acute pneumonia;
- limb threatening diabetic foot and soft tissue infections, caused by Gram negative Enterobacteriaceae bacteria which are producers of extended spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL), as confirmed by culture and sensitivity laboratory results.