



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

DH CIRCULAR No.210/2011
DH: 4501/2011

30th September 2011

Attention All: Consultants
Medical officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Patient responsibility regarding the correct Storage of Medicines

You are kindly being reminded that it is within the responsibility of the person collecting medicines to ensure the safe storage of medicines that are provided free of charge through government pharmacies or through the pharmacy of your choice (POYC) scheme.

Some medicines require cold storage at 2 to 8 °C in a refrigerator. For such medicines, patients / persons collecting medicines on their behalf should be advised to bring a cooler pack with suitable ice-pack to maintain cold storage and to place the medicines in a refrigerator immediately on arrival at home.

A letter (Annex 1) declaring responsibility for proper storage of medicines is to be signed by the person collecting the medicines.

This is to be attached to the prescription and retained by the dispenser.

No replacement of medicines will be supplied free of charge due to incorrect storage of these medications.

During storage, medicines must be retained in the manufacturers' original packaging.

Thank you
For your attention, please

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Chief Medical Officer

Patient Collects Medicine

I, the undersigned, as the patient, confirm that I am aware that the following items:

must be stored in a fridge as advised by the pharmacist. I hereby take full responsibility for their correct storage and understand that this medication will not be replaced if it/they are not stored in the fridge.

Signature

Jiena, hawn taht iffirmit, il-pazjent/a nikkonferma li naf li l-medicina/i

għandhom jinżammu fil-fridge kif infurmatni l-ispizjar/a.
Jiena niehu kull responsabbilta' li nassigura li dawn jinżammu fil-fridge kif indikat mill-ispizjar/a u nifhem li din il-medicina ma tigiex mibdula f'kaz li din ma tinżammx fil-fridge.

Firma

Medicines Collected on Patient's Behalf

I, the undersigned, confirm that I am aware that the following items:

collected on behalf of _____ must be stored in a fridge as advised by the pharmacist. I hereby take full responsibility for their correct storage and understand that this medication will not be replaced in case that it/they are not stored in a fridge.

Name

Signature

Jiena, li ffirmajt hawn taħt, nikkonferma li naf li dawn il-medicini:

li ġbart f-isem _____ jridu jinżammu fil-*fridge* kif infurmatni l-ispizjara. Jiena nieħu kull responsabbilta' li nassigura li dawn jinżammu fil-*fridge* u nifhem li din il-medicina ma tiġix mibdula f'każ li din ma tinżammx fil-*fridge*.

Isem

Firma



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

Patient responsibility regarding the correct Storage of Medicines

Policy Statement

To state the patient's responsibility for the safe storage of medicines that are provided free of charge through government pharmacies or through the pharmacy of your choice (POYC) scheme

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all persons collecting medicines through government pharmacies or POYC and concerns all medicines which need to be refrigerated for proper storage conditions.

Unless otherwise stated in the product literature, most medicines can be stored at room temperature. Some medicines require cold storage at 2 to 8 °C in a refrigerator. This procedure covers the storage of those medicines which require refrigeration.

Once the medicine is dispensed, the person collecting the medicines is responsible for storage of medicines under appropriate conditions, even if the medicines are not for his own personal use.

Principle

A number of medicines require cold storage at 2 to 8 °C in a refrigerator

Purpose

- To set out a process whereby a person collecting medicines is responsible for the proper storage of those medicines which need to be refrigerated so as to maintain appropriate storage conditions
- To ensure that patients are aware of the special requirements for medicines requiring storage under appropriate conditions.

Definition

Medicines should be stored and transported under conditions, which ensure that their quality is maintained up to the point of administration by the patient. The manufacturer's recommendations regarding the storage temperatures must be observed.

Procedure

For such medicines, patients / persons collecting medicines on their behalf should be advised to bring a cooler pack with suitable ice-pack to maintain cold storage and to place the medicines in a refrigerator immediately on arrival at home.

A letter (Appendix 1) declaring responsibility for proper storage of medicines is to be signed by the person collecting the medicines.

This is to be attached to the prescription and retained by the dispenser.



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If medicines have been stored inappropriately, the medicine shall not be replaced free.

During storage, medicines must be retained in the manufacturers' original packaging.

Data Protection

Patient details are processed and stored according to the data protection Regulations