



L-Uffiċċju tal-Uffiċjal Mediku Ewlieni

Office of the Chief Medical Officer

DH CIRCULAR No. 280/2011
DH 5465/2011

15th December 2011

Attention All: Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Omalizumab 150mg Injections

Omalizumab 150mg Injections have been recommended by the Government Formulary List Advisory Committee and approved by the Superintendent of Public Health for introduction onto the Government Formulary List.

Omalizumab specifically binds to IgE and prevents mediated responses thus treatment with Omalizumab should only be considered for patients with convincing IgE mediated asthma.

Consultants Respiratory Physicians and Consultant Paediatricians can prescribe Omalizumab 150mg injections for IgE Mediated Asthma as add-on therapy that remain inadequately controlled despite best available therapy who have a positive skin test or *in vitro* reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen and who have reduced lung function (FEV₁ <80%) as well as frequent daytime symptoms or night-time awakenings and who have had multiple documented severe asthma exacerbations despite daily high-dose inhaled corticosteroids, plus a long-acting inhaled beta2-agonist.

Patients treated with Omalizumab should be carefully reviewed so if no benefits are gained treatment is discontinued. Candidates for treatment need to be chosen through the established committee made up of adult respiratory physicians and paediatricians

Omalizumab 150mg injections is protocol-regulated with protocol number 294 (attached).

Omalizumab 150mg injections have been procured through the Centralised Procurement and Supplies and are now available for use as per protocol.

Thank you
For your attention, please

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Chief Medical Officer

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Omalizumab 150mg Injections

Prescriber criteria: Consultant Respiratory Physician
Consultant Paediatrician

Out-patient and In-patient use:

1. Chronic Asthma

Omalizumab should be reserved for patients with IgE Mediated Asthma as add-on therapy for severe persistent asthma that remains inadequately controlled despite best available therapy who have a positive skin test or *in vitro* reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen and who have reduced lung function (FEV₁ <80%) as well as frequent daytime symptoms or night-time awakenings and who have had multiple documented severe asthma exacerbations despite daily high-dose inhaled corticosteroids, plus a long-acting inhaled beta2-agonist.

Patients treated with Omalizumab should be carefully reviewed so if no benefits are gained treatment is discontinued. Candidates for treatment need to be chosen through the established committee made up of adult respiratory physicians and paediatricians

Duration of Approval:

1 year