



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

DH CIRCULAR No.48/2011

DH 901/2011

22nd February 2011

Attention all Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Pemetrexed 100 and 500mg vials

Pemetrexed 100 and 500mg vials, have been recommended by the Government Formulary List Advisory Committee and approved by the Superintendent of Public Health for introduction into the Government Formulary List. Consultant Oncologists can prescribe Pemetrexed 100 and 500mg vials, for malignant pleural mesothelioma and locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) only if the histology of the tumour has been confirmed as adenocarcinoma or large-cell carcinoma. Pemetrexed is protocol-regulated and the protocol number is 277 (attached).

Pemetrexed 100 and 500mg vials have been procured through GHPS and are now available for use as per protocol.

Thank you

For your attention please

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat

Director General

Pemetrexed 100mg and 500mg vials

Prescriber Criteria: Consultant Oncologist

Outpatient and In-patient Use:

Malignancy

To be used in patients with

1. Malignant pleural mesothelioma
 - a. Who are considered to have advanced disease
 - b. For whom surgical resection (removal) is considered inappropriate
 - c. Who have a World Health Organisation (WHO) performance status of 0 (able to carry out all normal activity without restriction) or 1 (restricted in strenuous activity but able to move around and carry out light housework)
2. Locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) only if the histology of the tumour has been confirmed as adenocarcinoma or large-cell carcinoma.

Duration of approval: 6 months