



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

**DH CIRCULAR No.50/2011**

**DH 913/2011**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

**Attention all** Consultants  
Medical Officers  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses

**Re: Deferasirox, 250mg and 500mg Dispersible Tablets**

Deferasirox, 250mg and 500mg Dispersible Tablets 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.

Thalassaemia Clinic Consultant and Consultant Haematologists can prescribe Deferasirox dispersible tablets for treatment of chronic iron overload due to frequent blood transfusions in patients with serum ferritin >2,000ng/mL, with beta thalassaemia major and when desferrioxamine therapy is contra-indicated or inadequate in specific patient groups. Deferasirox dispersible tablets, is protocol-regulated and the protocol number is 277 (attached).

Deferasirox, *500mg Dispersible Tablets* 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

## **Deferasirox dispersible tablets**

**Prescriber criteria:** Consultant Thalassaemia Clinic  
Consultant Haematologist

### **Clinical Indications qualifying patients for treatment:**

Treatment of chronic iron overload in patients with serum ferritin >2,000ng/mL, due to:

- frequent blood transfusions ( $\geq 7$ ml/kg/month of packed red blood cells) in patients with beta thalassaemia major aged 2 years and older
- blood transfusions when desferrioxamine therapy is contraindicated or inadequate in the following patient groups:
  - patients with Diamond-Blackfan Anaemia
  - patients with beta thalassaemia major with iron overload due to infrequent blood transfusions (<7ml/kg/month of packed red blood cells).

### **Duration of approval:**

1 year