

**DH CIRCULAR No. 142/2012**

DH: 2216/2012

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

Attention All:

Doctors

Pharmacists

Pharmacy Technicians

Nurses

**Re: Montelukast 4mg and 5mg chewable tablets**

Montelukast 4mg and 5mg chewable tablets 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.

Montelukast is a leukotriene receptor antagonist indicated in the treatment of asthma as add on therapy in those patients with mild to moderate persistent asthma who are inadequately controlled on inhaled corticosteroids and in whom “as-needed” short acting  $\beta$ -agonists provide inadequate clinical control of asthma.

The recommended dose for paediatric patients 2-5 years of age is one 4 mg chewable tablet daily to be taken in the evening. The paediatric 4 mg chewable tablet formulation is not recommended below 2 years of age.

The recommended dose for paediatric patients 6-14 years of age is one tablet once daily to be taken in the evening.

If taken in connection with food, montelukast should be taken 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.

Consultant Respiratory Physicians and Consultant Paediatricians can prescribe Montelukast 4mg and 5mg chewable tablets in paediatric patients for the treatment of chronic asthma:

- not controlled on a regular standard dose inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist OR
- not controlled on a regular standard dose inhaled corticosteroid and had no response to a long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist

Patients should be carefully reviewed. Candidates for treatment need to be chosen through the established committee made up of Respiratory Physicians (adult patients) and Paediatricians.

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DIPARTIMENT TAS-SAĦĦA



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*L-Uffiċċju tal-Uffiċjal Mediku Ewlieni*

*Office of the Chief Medical Officer*

Montelukast 4mg and 5mg chewable tablets are protocol-regulated with protocol number 295 (attached).

Montelukast 4mg and 5mg chewable tablets have been procured through the Centralised Procurement and Supplies and are now available for use as per protocol.

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Version 03

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## **Montelukast 4mg and 5mg Chewable Tablets and 10mg Tablets**

**Prescriber criteria:** Consultant Paediatrician  
Consultant Respiratory Physician

**Out-patient and In-patient use:**

1. Chronic Asthma

Reserved for:

- Patients under 5 years suffering from asthma not controlled on a regular standard dose inhaled corticosteroid
- Patients aged 5 years and older suffering from asthma not controlled on a regular standard dose inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist OR not controlled on a regular standard dose inhaled corticosteroid and had no response to a long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist.

*Patients treated with Montelukast should be carefully reviewed. Candidates for treatment need to be chosen through the established committee made up of respiratory physicians (adult patients) and paediatricians.*

**Duration of Approval:**

1 year