

**DH CIRCULAR No.312/2013**  
DH 1556/2012

14 October 2013

**Attention All:** Consultants  
Medical Officers  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses**Re: Updated Government Formulary List (October 2013)**

The Directorate for Pharmaceutical Affairs (DPA) ensures quality in drug utilization through the ongoing management of the Government Formulary List. The main objective is to optimize patient care through the rational use of drugs within the healthcare setting.

The Government Formulary List is reviewed and updated periodically through removal and addition of medicines, changes in medicines' protocols and amendments in entitlement and prescriber criteria.

The DPA has now issued the updated Government Formulary List (October 2013) on the following website [link](#).

The updated protocols are listed on the following website [link](#).

The list of changes in this issue can be found in Annex I.

Feedback regarding the Government Formulary List can be sent through the DPA generic email: [dpa.mfh@gov.mt](mailto:dpa.mfh@gov.mt)

For your attention, please

Dr. Natasha Azzopardi Muscat  
Chief Medical Officer

**List of changes in Out-Patients Formulary**

Amitriptyline syrup 25mg/5mL	Changed dosage strength from '10mg/5mL to 25mg/5mL'
Betamethasone Valerate ointment 0.025%	Corrected dose from 0.03% to 0.025%
Bezafibrate modified release tablets 400mg	Corrected formulation from 'tablets 400mg' to 'modified release tablets 400mg'
Bismuth Chelate tablets 120mg	Deleted from formulary
Chorionic Gonadotrophin (HCG) injection 1500IU	Changed dosage strength from 1000IU to 1500IU
Colestipol powder	Deleted from formulary
Cortisone Acetate tablets 25mg	Deleted from formulary
Hydroxocobalamin (Vitamin B12) injection 1mg/mL	Changed name from 'Hydroxycobalamin' to 'Hydroxocobalamin' according to INN
Lenalidomide capsules 25mg	Added 'TBDF MDHP, GGHP & SPBHP only'
Nystatin cream 100000IU	Deleted from formulary
Phenytoin Sodium capsules 25mg	Deleted from formulary
Propranolol oral solution 1mg/mL	Added Consultant Psychiatrists to the prescriber criteria
Sucralfate oral liquid 1g/5mL	Changed prescriber criteria from ' Consultant Gastroenterologists, Consultant Paediatricians, Consultant Geriatricians' to 'Consultants' Added pink (Schedule II) status C
Sucralfate tablets 1g	Deleted from formulary
Tamoxifen tablets 10mg	Added to formulary
Tretinoin gel 0.025%	Changed formulation from 'cream 0.05% to gel 0.025%'
Venlafaxine modified release tablets 150mg	Deleted from formulary

**List of changes in Hospital Formulary**

Amitriptyline syrup 25mg/5mL	Changed dosage strength from '10mg/5mL to 25mg/5mL'
Amyl Nitrite ampoules 0.2mL	Deleted from formulary
Betamethasone Valerate ointment 0.025%	Corrected dose from 0.03% to 0.025%
Bezafibrate modified release tablets 400mg	Corrected name from 'Fibrate (Bezafibrate) tablets 400mg' to 'Bezafibrate modified release tablets 400mg'
Bismuth Chelate tablets 120mg	Deleted from formulary
Cefalotin Sodium injections 1g	Deleted from formulary
Ceftriaxone Sodium I.M. injections 250mg	Deleted from formulary
Chorionic Gonadotrophin (HCG) injection 1500IU	Changed dosage strength from 1000IU to 1500IU
Colestipol powder	Deleted from formulary
Cortisone Acetate tablets 25mg	Deleted from formulary
Cyclophosphamide injections 1g	Deleted from formulary
Disopyramide injections 50mg (10mg/mL in 5mL)	Deleted from formulary
Fenofibrate capsules 100mg (non-micronised) or 67mg (micronised)	Changed dose from 'capsules 100mg' to 'capsules 100mg (non-micronised) or 67mg (micronized)'
Fusidate Sodium injections 500mg	Deleted from formulary
Hydroxocobalamin (Vitamin B12) injection 1mg/mL	Changed name from 'Hydroxycobalamin' to 'Hydroxocobalamin' according to INN
Hydroxocobalamin (Vitamin B12) injection 5g	Changed name from 'Hydroxycobalamin' to 'Hydroxocobalamin' according to INN Changed dose from 2.5g to 5g
Nystatin cream 100000IU	Deleted from formulary
Pentastarch injections 10%	Deleted from formulary
Phenobarbitone injections 200mg/mL	Deleted from formulary
Phenytoin Sodium capsules 25mg	Deleted from formulary
Propranolol oral solution 1mg/mL	Added Consultant Psychiatrists to the prescriber criteria
Ringer's solution for injection (Compound sodium chloride) IV infusion	Corrected name
Sucralfate tablets 1g	Deleted from formulary
Sucralfate oral liquid 1g/5mL	Changed prescriber criteria from ' Consultant Gastroenterologists, Consultant Paediatricians, Consultant Geriatricians' to 'Consultants' Added pink (Schedule II) status C

Tamoxifen tablets 10mg	Added to formulary
Tretinoin gel 0.025%	Changed formulation from 'cream 0.05% to gel 0.025%'
Venlafaxine modified release tablets 150mg	Deleted from formulary

**List of changes in Protocols**

Protocol 1: Acipimox 250mg Capsules	Removed Protocol
Protocol 12: Atorvastatin 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg Tablets	Updated Protocol
Protocol 23: Budesonide 3mg Controlled Release Capsules	Updated Protocol
Protocol 24: Budesonide 0.02mg/mL Retention Enema	Updated Protocol
Protocol 56: Domperidone 10mg Tablets	Updated Protocol
Protocol 57: Domperidone 5mg/5mL Syrup	Updated Protocol
Protocol 77: Fluticasone 50mcg Inhaler	Updated Protocol
Protocol 101: Insulin Glargine Cartridges, Pens and Needles	Changed duration of approval from '1 year' to '3 years'
Protocol 139: Mupirocin Intranasal Ointment	Updated Protocol
Protocol 184: Sucralfate 1g/5mL Syrup	Removed Protocol
Protocol 188: Testosterone Enanthate Depot 250mg/mL Injections	Updated Protocol
Protocol 190: Teriparatide 20mcg/80mL Pre-Filled Pen	Changed duration of approval from '1 year' to '2 years'
Protocol 196: Verapamil 240mg SR Tablets	Updated Protocol
Protocol 207: Insulin Aspart Cartridges	Changed duration of approval from '1 year' to '3 years'
Protocol 212: Fibrinogen Concentrate	Updated Protocol
Protocol 215: Ropinirole 250mcg, 1mg, 2mg & 5mg Tablets	Updated Protocol
Protocol 271: Long-acting Beta <sub>2</sub> -agonist Inhalers for Patients Over 12 Years	Updated Protocol
Protocol 294: Omalizumab 150mg Injections	Updated Protocol
Protocol 295: Montelukast 4mg and 5mg Chewable Tablets and 10mg Tablets	Updated Protocol