



MINISTRY for ENERGY and HEALTH
15, PALAZZO CASTELLANIA, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

DH CIRCULAR No.279/2014
DH 1556/2012

8 July 2014

Attention All: Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

RE: Updated Government Formulary List (July 2014)

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 (July 2014) 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.meh-health@gov.mt

For your attention, please

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List of changes in Out-Patients Formulary

Introductory Information	The information found at the beginning of the Out-Patients Formulary was updated.
Amphotericin 10mg Lozenges	Deleted from the formulary
Anti-Haemophilic Factor VIII Inhibitor Bypassing Activity 500U or 1000U Injections	Changed dosage strength from '500IU' to '500U or 1000U'
Azithromycin 250mg, 500mg Capsules and 200mg/5mL Suspension	Added Consultant Respiratory Physician to the Prescriber Criteria
Benzoyl Peroxide 2.5% Gel	Deleted from the formulary
Benzoyl Peroxide 5% Cream	Deleted from the formulary
Benzoyl Peroxide 5% Gel	Availability temporarily suspended due to problematic sourcing
Chlorhexidine + Neomycin 0.1% and 0.5% Nasal Cream	Deleted from Out-Patients formulary
Chlorobutanol + Paradichlorobenzene 5% and 2% Ear Drops	Deleted from formulary
Digoxin 0.5mg/mL Oral Solution	Changed from elixir to oral solution
Emulsifying Ointment BP	Added 'TBDF SPBHP only' (To be dispensed from Sir Paul Boffa Hospital Pharmacy only) Changed prescriber criteria from Medical Practitioners to Consultant Dermatologists Removed Pink Positive status
Ethosuximide 250mg Capsules	Changed dosage form from tablets to capsules
Liothyronine Sodium 25microgram Tablets	Changed dosage form from '20micrograms Tablets' to '25micrograms Scored Tablets'
Methadone 5mg Tablets	Removed from Out-Patients formulary
Methylprednisolone (as Sodium Succinate or Hemisuccinate) 40mg Injection IM/IV	Changed name from 'Methylprednisolone Sodium Succinate'
Metolazone 5mg Tablets	Changed prescriber criteria from Consultant Physicians to Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Consultant Cardiologist and Consultant Nephrologist
Morphine Sulphate (currently Wockhardt) 10mg/mL Injections	Added 'currently Wockhardt' to distinguish the formulation that is licensed for use in adults only.
Morphine Sulphate (for Paediatric Use – currently Mercury Pharma) 10mg/mL Injections	Added formulation that is licensed for use in children.

Oral Iron (currently Ferrous Gluconate 300mg [35mg elemental iron]) Tablets/Capsules	Added '(currently Ferrous Gluconate 300mg [35mg elemental iron])'
Phytomenadione 10mg/mL Injections	Added to Out-Patients formulary
Tenofovir 245mg Tablets	Added Consultant Gastroenterologist to the Prescriber Criteria
Zinc Based Barrier Cream/Ointment	Changed entry from 'Zinc + Castor Oil Cream'

List of changes in Hospital Formulary

Amphotericin 10mg Lozenges	Deleted from the formulary
Anti-Haemophilic Factor VIII Inhibitor Bypassing Activity 500U or 1000U Injections	Changed dosage strength from '500IU' to '500U or 1000U'
Azithromycin 250mg, 500mg Capsules and 200mg/5mL Suspension	Added Consultant Respiratory Physician to the Prescriber Criteria
Benzoyl Peroxide 2.5% Gel	Deleted from the formulary
Benzoyl Peroxide 5% Cream	Deleted from the formulary
Benzoyl Peroxide 5% Gel	Availability temporarily suspended due to problematic sourcing
Chlorobutanol + Paradichlorobenzene 5% and 2% Ear Drops	Deleted from formulary
Dextran 70 in Sodium Chloride Infusion IV 6% + 7.5%	Deleted from the formulary
Digoxin 0.5mg/mL Oral Solution	Changed from 'elixir' to 'oral solution'
Docetaxel 20mg and 80mg Injections	Added dosage strength
Emulsifying Ointment BP	Added 'To be dispensed from Sir Paul Boffa Hospital Pharmacy only' Changed prescriber criteria from Medical Practitioners to Consultant Dermatologists
Ethosuximide 250mg Capsules	Changed dosage form from tablets to capsules
Halothane Volatile Anaesthetic 500IU in 5mL Ampoule	Deleted from formulary
Ibuprofen Lysine 10mg/mL Injections	Added to formulary (for the used in patent ductus arteriosus instead of Indometacin 1mg Injections)
Indometacin 1mg Injections	Deleted from formulary (replaced by Ibuprofen Lysine 10mg/mL Injections)
Liothyronine Sodium 25microgram Scored Tablets	Changed dosage form from '20micrograms Tablets' to '25micrograms Scored Tablets'
Mannitol 15% IV Infusion Fluid	Changed dose from 20% to 15%
Methadone 5mg Tablets	Added 'Detox Clinic' to the Department
Methylprednisolone (as Sodium Succinate or Hemisuccinate) 40mg Injection IM/IV	Changed name from 'Methylprednisolone Sodium Succinate'
Metolazone 5mg Tablets	Changed prescriber criteria from Consultant Physicians to Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Consultant Cardiologist and Consultant Nephrologist

Morphine Sulphate (currently Wockhardt) 10mg/mL Injections	Added 'currently Wockhardt' to distinguish the formulation that is licensed for use in adults only.
Morphine Sulphate (for Paediatric Use – currently Mercury Pharma) 10mg/mL Injections	Added formulation that is licensed for use in children.
Muromonab 5mg Injection	Deleted from the formulary
Oral Iron (currently Ferrous Gluconate 300mg [35mg elemental iron]) Tablets/Capsules	Added '(currently Ferrous Gluconate 300mg [35mg elemental iron])'
Phytomenadione 10mg/mL Injections	Added 'To be dispensed from Hospitals only for oral use'
Sodium Thiosulphate 25% w/v Injections	Changed dosage strength from '500mg/mL' to '25% w/v'
Sulfadiazine 250mg/mL Injections	Deleted from the formulary
Taxanes Vials	The entry 'taxanes' was removed from formulary. Taxanes can be found as Docetaxel or Paclitaxel.
Tenofovir 245mg Tablets	Added Consultant Gastroenterologist to the Prescriber Criteria
Zinc Based Barrier Cream/Ointment	Changed entry from 'Zinc + Castor Oil Cream'

List of changes in Protocols

Protocol 1: Acipimox 250mg Capsules	Added protocol
Protocol 5: Alfacalcidol (1- α hydroxyvitamin D3) 2mcg/mL Drops	Updated protocol
Protocol 9: Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists (Sartan)	Updated protocol
Protocol 11: Azithromycin 250mg, 500mg Capsules and 200mg/5mL Suspension	Added Consultant Respiratory Physician to the Prescriber Criteria
Protocol 125: Mesalazine 500mg Slow Release Tablets (Pentasa®)	Updated protocol
Protocol 128: Metolazone 5mg Tablets	Changed prescriber criteria from Consultant Physicians to Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Consultant Cardiologist and Consultant Nephrologist; and updated the conditions qualifying patients for the drug
Protocol 187: Tenofovir 245mg Tablets	Added Consultant Gastroenterologist to the Prescriber Criteria and added a new indication
Protocol 219: Taxanes	Removed protocol. Taxanes can be found as Docetaxel (MP 220) or Paclitaxel (MP 157).
Protocol 266: Methadone 5mg Tablets	Deleted the protocol