



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR HEALTH
15, PALAZZO CASTELLANIA, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

DH CIRCULAR No.321/2014

DH 2909/2014

13th August 2014

Attention All: Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

RE: Deletion of Trifluoperazine 1mg Tablets

Due to sourcing difficulties with trifluoperazine 1mg tablets, the aforementioned tablets will be officially deleted from the formulary once the current stock available in all entities is depleted.

The Department of Psychiatry has issued the following recommendations:

1. All dopamine D₂ receptor antagonist antipsychotics can be used as alternatives to trifluoperazine 1mg tablets, both as anxiolytic and antipsychotic treatment. However, the first line alternative recommended by the Department is Risperidone tablets.
2. Initial dosage switching should be from 1mg trifluoperazine to 1mg risperidone equivalent, but not exceeding the BNF highest recommended dosage for risperidone of 16mg daily.
3. It is possible that another antipsychotic may be required as an alternative to risperidone if response is not optimal.
4. Patients in whom switching from trifluoperazine 1mg tablets to risperidone tablets proves to be difficult can be referred urgently to the Psychiatric Out-Patients, at Mater Dei Hospital or in the community, for specialist advice.

Risperidone tablets are available on the formulary in 1mg and 2mg doses. Trifluoperazine 5mg tablets remain available on the formulary.

For your attention please.

Dr Denis Vella Baldacchino
Acting Director General Health Services

Office of the Permanent Secretary
t +356 22992374 e permsec.mfh@gov.mt