

**DH CIRCULAR No. 442/2014**
DH 1556/2014

24 November 2014

Attention All: Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses**RE: Updated Government Formulary List (November 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 the 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 (November 2014) on the following website [link](#). The Out-Patients Formulary and the Formulary Mapping Document were amalgamated into one document for ease of reference.

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

Dr Denis Vella Baldacchino
Chief Medical Officer

List of changes in Out-Patients Formulary

Out-Patients Formulary	The Out-Patients Formulary and the Formulary Mapping Document were amalgamated into one single document for ease of reference.
Heparin Calcium 2500 IU/mL in 0.2mL Prefilled Syringes	Deleted from formulary
Medroxyprogesterone Acetate 150mg/mL in 1mL Injection	Removed from formulary. Item is only available against payment.
Metronidazole 0.75% Gel	Corrected dosage strength from 0.8% to 0.75%
Multivitamins Injection IV	Removed from Out-Patients Formulary. Item is used in Hospital.
Nimodipine 30mg Tablets	Removed from Out-Patients Formulary. Item is initiated in Hospital.
Phenytoin 300mg Capsules	Deleted from formulary
Protein 70-90% (high) Powder	Added to Malignant Diseases
Vancomycin 125mg Capsules	Removed from Out-Patients Formulary. Item is to be used in Hospital or initiated in Hospital as per Protocol

List of changes in Hospital Formulary

Baclofen Intrathecal Vials	Marked as 'Hospital Use'
B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin) Vaccine	Added to formulary
Bowel Cleansing Prep (Adult) Powder	Changed Department to 'Hospital Use/To be dispensed from Hospitals or Primary Health Care Department for screening only'
Cardioplegia Concentrate	Changed formulation from solution to concentrate
Dextrose 50% in 20mL and 500mL IV Infusion	Corrected ATC Code
Guanethidine 10mg Injection	Changed Prescriber Criteria to Consultant Anaesthetists (Pain Clinic) and changed Department to 'Pain Clinic'
Heparin (No Bactericide) Injections	Deleted from formulary
Heparin Calcium 2500 IU/mL in 0.2mL Prefilled Syringes	Deleted from formulary
Human Papillomavirus Vaccine	Added to formulary
Medroxyprogesterone Acetate 150mg/mL in 1mL Injections	Removed from formulary. Item is only available against payment.
Metronidazole 0.75% Gel	Corrected dosage strength from 0.8% to 0.75%
Multivitamins (Cernevit® 12) Infusion	Removed 'Hospital Use'
Phenytoin 300mg Capsules	Deleted from formulary
Naloxone 40mcg/2mL Injections	Deleted from formulary
Temazepam Oral Solution 10mg/5mL	Added 'Surgical Wards' to Department
Vancomycin 125mg Capsules and 500mg Injections	Added 'Hospital Use/ Hospital Initiation as per Protocol' to Department

List of changes in Protocols

Protocol 12: Atorvastatin 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg Tablets	Updated protocol
Protocol 21: Botulinum Toxin A	Updated protocol
Protocol 125: Mesalazine 500mg Slow Release Tablets (Pentasa®)	Updated protocol
Protocol 129: Metronidazole 0.75% Gel	Corrected dosage strength from 0.8% to 0.75%