



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

**DH Circular 458/2016**  
**DH 3036/2016**

30<sup>th</sup> December 2016

To All: Medical Doctors  
Nurses  
Pharmacists  
Allied Health Professional Staff

**Re: Switchover of Schedule II (Pink Card) Diabetic Patients to Schedule V Entitlement**

As part of Government's policy in 2017 to increase services to improve the care of all Diabetic patients ( as from 1<sup>st</sup> of January, **ALL** diabetic patients, irrespective if they are in possession of Schedule V (Yellow card) for Diabetes or Schedule 11 (Pink Card), will be entitled to the following:

**1. Antibiotics for treatment of Diabetes related infections**

The following antibiotics can now also be prescribed for Diabetes Mellitus Type 1 or Type 2.

Antibiotics will be classified into two groups:

- A) Those that can be prescribed by doctors in the community, which prescriptions cannot exceed ten (10) days duration and the number of episodes should not exceed three per calendar year. If longer courses are believed to be required, advice from respective caring physician should be sought. The antibiotics include:
- a. Amoxicillin capsules 250mg, Syrup 125mg/5ml
  - b. Cefalexin capsules 250mg, Syrup 125mg/5ml
  - c. Doxycycline capsules 100mg
  - d. Erythromycin capsules/tablets 250mg, syrup 125mg/5ml
  - e. Flucloxacillin capsules 250mg, syrup 125mg/5ml
  - f. Metronidazole tablets 200mg, suspension 200mg/5ml
  - g. Nitrofurantoin tablets 50mg, syrup 25mg/5ml
  - h. Amoxicillin + Clavulanic Acid Tablets 250mg + 125mg
- B) The antibiotics that can be prescribed by Consultants for chronic wound infections related to diabetes include
- a. Ciprofloxacin capsules 250mg
  - b. Clindamycin capsules 150mg
  - c. Co-trimoxazole 400mg + 80mg
  - d. Fusidic Acid



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**2. Free Dental Care**

In order to continue promoting Oral Health, all diabetic patients will be entitled to free dental check – ups in the National Public Health Service, including dental fillings and prosthesis so long they are in possession of a valid Schedule V card

**3. Free spectacles including frames and lenses**

The current entitlement for free spectacles and lenses applicable to patients with Schedule 11 card will now also be included to ALL diabetic patients with the respective valid Schedule V card for Diabetes

Please bring these measures to the attention of all involved staff

Denis Vella Baldacchino  
Chief Medical Officer