

**DH CIRCULAR No. 118/2016**
DH 1099/201624th March 2016**Attention All:** Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses**RE: Metoprolol 50mg tablets for Cardiac CT Scans**

Patients undergoing cardiac CT scans require premedication to slow the heart below 60 beats per minute.

This allows for the majority of the coronary segments to be examined and also makes it easier to get a high-quality image with relatively low radiation dose.

Patients must be prepared in advance and unless contraindicated, should take two Metoprolol 50mg tablets 24 hours prior to the scan.

In a bid to simplify this process so that patients requiring premedication are adequately prepared for their cardiac CT scan, two metoprolol tablets shall be dispensed from Mater Dei Hospital and Gozo General Hospital pharmacies to patients referred from the point of clinical contact when the referrer requests a cardiac CT scan, i.e. Out-patient clinics or on discharge from hospital.

The prescription must clearly state that the metoprolol 50mg tablets are required as premedication for cardiac CT scans. Only **two** metoprolol 50mg tablets will be dispensed.

For your attention please,

Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino
Chief Medical Officer