



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

DH CIRCULAR 40/2017
DH 1121/2014

30th May 2017

Attention All: Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Calcium Carbonate Tablets

It is being brought to your attention that the current supply of antacid chewable tablets within the Government Health Services is Setlers Antacid[®] tablets containing the active ingredient calcium carbonate.

Hence, two preparations of calcium carbonate tablets with different indications are currently available within the Government Health Services as follows:

1. Calcium Carbonate Chewable Tablets or Tablets 1250mg (equivalent to 500mg elemental calcium). Currently available as Calcichew[®]. Indicated as a calcium supplement and as a phosphate binding agent in the management of renal failure in patients on renal dialysis.
2. Antacid Chewable Tablets. Currently available as Setlers Antacid[®]. Indicated as an antacid.

To avoid any prescribing and dispensing errors, prescribers are kindly being requested to write 'Antacid Chewable Tablets' when prescribing the antacid preparation. Prescriptions with brand names or active ingredient/s should be avoided, when referring to the antacid formulation.

Prescriptions referring to the calcium supplement/phosphate binding agent formulation should be written as 'Calcium Carbonate Tablets'.

Your co-operation is kindly being requested.

For your attention please.

Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino
Chief Medical Officer

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