



DH Circular 52/2018
DH 928/2018

9th July 2018

Attention All: Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Deletion of Fluvastatin and Changes in Statin Entitlement

It is being brought to your attention that due to international shortage, Fluvastatin 40mg tablets and 80mg prolonged release tablets will be deleted from the Government Formulary List (GFL) once stocks are depleted.

Fluvastatin is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (statin). The statins that will continue to be available on the GFL are:

- Simvastatin 10mg, 20mg and 40mg
- Atorvastatin 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg
- Rosuvastatin 20mg and 40mg

The following table is a statin conversion guide representing the equivalent doses of statins available on the GFL in comparison with Fluvastatin.

%LDL Reduction	Fluvastatin	Simvastatin	Atorvastatin	Rosuvastatin
<24%				
25-32%	40mg	10mg		
31-39%	80mg	20mg	10mg	
37-45%		40mg	20mg	
48-52%			40mg	
55-60%			80mg	20mg
60-63%				40mg

Since patients on Fluvastatin were either intolerant or had contraindications to Simvastatin, these patients will now be entitled to Atorvastatin. Patients currently on Fluvastatin are to visit their caring physician to be switched to Atorvastatin.

To facilitate this switchover, any physician can issue a prescription. POYC will automatically make the necessary changes to entitlement. All healthcare professionals are to take particular care in guiding the patients accordingly in order to ensure a smooth and safe transition.



OFFICE of the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY for HEALTH
15, PALAZZO CASTELLANIA, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

Please also note that, as a measure to follow established guidelines, the protocol for Atorvastatin is being removed so that Simvastatin and Atorvastatin are now both first-line treatment. The choice of first-line statin will be at the discretion of the clinicians.

As per usual procedure, Consultants and Specialists Family Medicine at the Primary Healthcare Department can initiate treatment of new cases.

The Rosuvastatin Protocol has been updated accordingly (Annex 1).

For information about interactions, please refer to the preparation's Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).

For your attention please.

Dr Denis Vella Baldacchino
Chief Medical Officer

Rosuvastatin 20mg and 40mg Tablets

Prescriber Criteria: Consultant
Specialist Family Medicine PHCD

Out-patient and In-patient use:

1. Cerebrovascular Disease
2. Chronic Kidney Disease
3. Diabetes Mellitus
4. Genetic Dyslipidaemia
5. Hypertension
6. Ischaemic Heart Disease
7. Peripheral Vascular Disease

To be used when the target level is not achieved with maximum dose of Atorvastatin for a minimum of 3 months:

- Low to moderate risk level: LDL[#] >3 mmol/L
 1. Hypertension
 2. Genetic Dyslipidaemia

- High risk level: LDL[#] >1.8 mmol/L
 1. Cerebrovascular Disease
 2. Chronic Kidney Disease
 3. Diabetes Mellitus Type 1
 4. Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
 5. Ischaemic Heart Disease
 6. Peripheral Vascular Disease

[#]Lipid profile MUST be attached with application for request to be processed

Duration of Approval:

10 years