



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

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Attention All: Consultants
Medical Doctors
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Change in Brand and Dose of Theophylline Prolonged Release Tablets

Theophylline prolonged release tablets are available on the Government Formulary List. Patients suffering from Chronic Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Chronic Respiratory Failure are entitled to this drug. Theophylline can be prescribed by Consultant Respiratory Physicians and Specialist Respiratory Medicine Consultants

Due to its narrow therapeutic index, theophylline prolonged release tablets were procured as the branded Slo-phyllin® with a dose of 250mg. However, Merck, the suppliers of Slo-phyllin®, have reported that due to manufacturing issues from their supplier, the manufacture of this product has ceased immediately and will be discontinued.

Hence, due to the above-mentioned reasons, once the current stock of Slo-phyllin® tablets is exhausted, the brand and dose of theophylline, will be changed to Uniphyllin Continus® 200mg prolonged release tablets. Therefore, patients will need to be reviewed and switched to the closest equivalent dose of Uniphyllin Continus®.

Uniphyllin Continus® 200mg prolonged release tablets must be swallowed whole and not broken, crushed or chewed as doing so may lead to a rapid release of theophylline with the potential for toxicity.

For your attention please.

Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino
Chief Medical Officer