



HOSPITAL QUEEN ELIZABETH II

MEDICINES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

2023



**Medicines of Animal Origin
Pharmacy Department
Hospital Queen Elizabeth II
2023**

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Publisher:

Hospital Queen Elizabeth II
Lorong Bersatu, Off Jalan Damai,
Luyang Commercial Centre,
88300 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah, Malaysia.
Tel: 088 – 324600 Ext. 2146 / 2040

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Revision

NO.	DATE OF REVISION	DOCUMENT NAME	REVIEW DATE (3 YEARS OR WHEN REQUIRED)
1	21 August 2018	<i>Polisi Menggunakan Ubat-Ubatan yang Mengandungi Unsur Tidak Halal Hospital Queen Elizabeth II</i>	
2	21 August 2023	Medicines of Animal Origin Hospital Queen Elizabeth II	

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1 Purpose

This guideline provides information for doctors to assist patients wishing to avoid animal product, to make informed decisions about their treatment/care.

2 Scope

People with food allergies or intolerances, or who want to avoid animal products for religious or cultural reasons may want to know about the origin/source of drugs and excipients contained within their medicines, to enable them to make a fully informed decision about their treatment.^{1,2}

3 Background

Many different medicines and vaccines, or specific formulations of a medicine such as tablets, capsules, creams or mixtures contain animal products or are animal derived.²

Animal-derived constituents in drugs can be present in both active and inactive ingredients. Examples of animal-derived drugs include anticoagulants such as heparin. Animal-derived inactive ingredients, collectively known as excipients, include products such as gelatin (for drug encapsulation) and stearic acid (solubilizing agent).² Further examples of pharmaceutical products known to be of animal origin are listed in the appendices. The use of animals has been a concern to patients with religious and cultural restrictions especially in a multicultural country like Malaysia.

The Drug Control Authority (DCA), Ministry of Health Malaysia requires pharmaceutical companies to declare if their products contain materials of animal origin.³ This is through displaying it on the immediate container and outer carton label stating the product has animal source like cows (bovine), pigs (porcine) and others. There are raw materials like magnesium stearate, glycerin or gelatin that may originate from animal source. The labelling can help users especially Muslims, Hindus, vegetarians and users with certain allergies to avoid from using these products. Apart from that, if there is no other choices of medicines containing animal source need to be used to treat patients, the hospital will seek consent from patients first before administering the medicines.

For this reason, healthcare professionals should take into consideration patients' religious beliefs and lifestyles when prescribing and administering medicines.^{1,3} Having a basic understanding of a patient's religious beliefs can improve the doctor-patient relationship and, consequently adherence to medication.² Informing patients about the

origins of their proposed medication (if animal derived and no suitable synthetic alternative exists) will assist them in making informed decisions regarding their treatment.³ Patient must be properly counselled on the presence of animal traces in their medication and an informed consent should be obtained in front of the healthcare provider after they achieved mutual agreement on the treatment planned for the patient.³ The consent form should be kept inside the patient’s case note for documentation.³

Table 1 summarized restrictions of certain religions or faiths.

4 Religious restrictions

Table 1 Religious restrictions^{1,2,3,4}

Religion	Restrictions
Buddhism	For some vegetarian Buddhists - all animal products prohibited however, no fixed rules.
Hinduism	For majority who are vegetarian – all animal products including egg prohibited. For those who are not vegetarian, restriction still include bovine products.
Islam	Porcine products prohibited. All animal products not killed in the prescribed ritualistic way (<i>halal</i>) prohibited. Products containing alcohol prohibited.
Seventh Day Adventist	Some abstain from meat, but eggs are permissible.
Sikhism	For some who are vegetarian – all animal products including egg prohibited. For those who are not vegetarian, restrictions still include bovine and porcine products. All animal products from <i>halal</i> sources prohibited. Products containing alcohol prohibited.

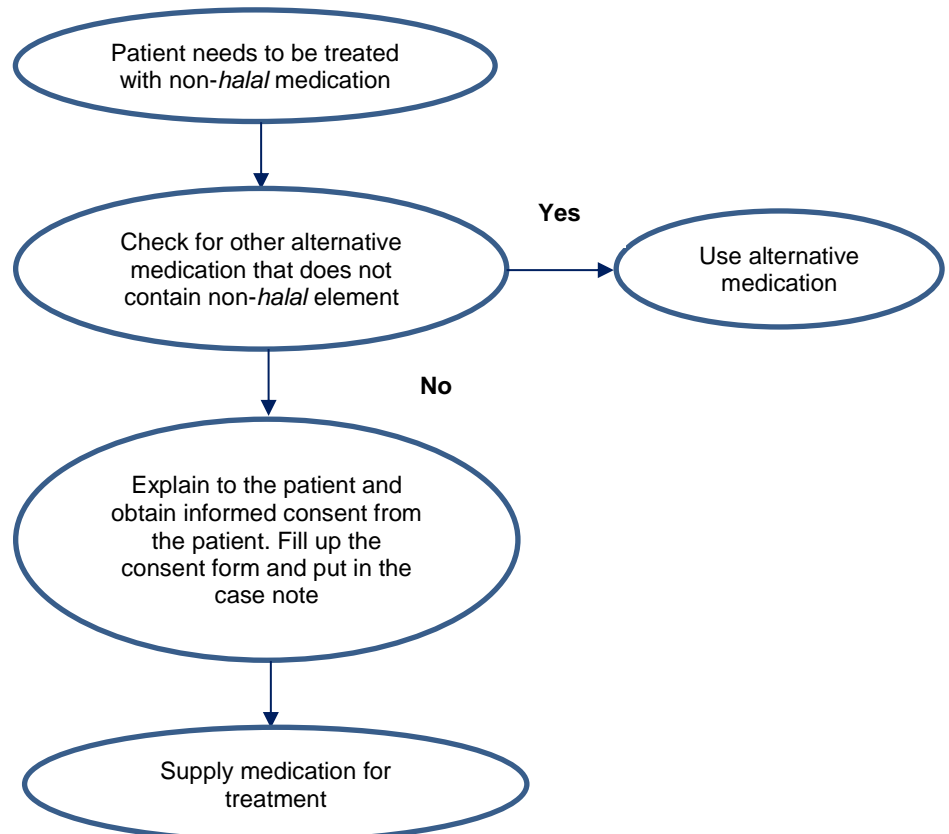
For further clarification, the patient could seek guidance from their religious organization.

The National Fatwa Council Committee convened and decided that pharmaceuticals / medicines containing prohibited substances should only be consumed if there are no other medicine of halal source available, and it is used in an emergency. Further information is available at the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), 2020.^{3,4}

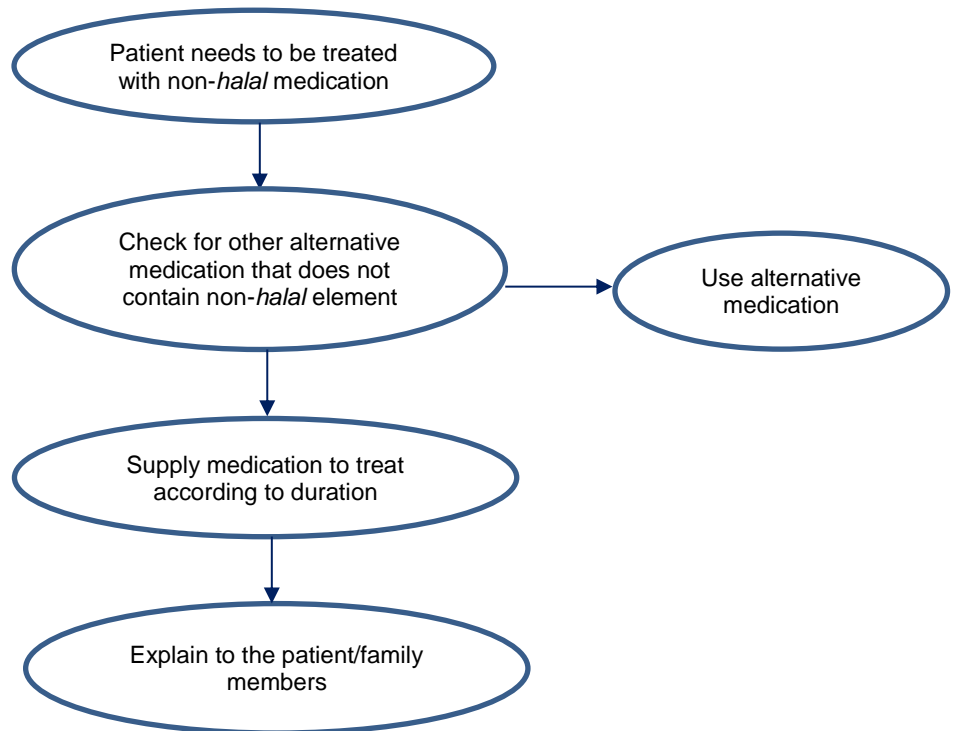
As a general rule Muslims are not allowed any form of porcine, but when there is no suitable alternative and there is a risk of health deterioration, Islamic law does allow medicines derived from porcine.^{3,4} Further information is available from the Pharmaceutical Services Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia publication titled “*Panduan Penggunaan Ubat-Ubatan yang Mengandungi Unsur Tidak Halal kepada Pesakit Muslim di Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia*” (First Edition, 2017) at: <https://www.pharmacy.gov.my/v2/sites/default/files/document-upload/garis-panduan-penggunaan-ubatan-dengan-kandungan-tidak-halal.pdf> and the “*Panduan Penggunaan Ubat-ubatan dari Perspektif Islam*” (First Edition, January 2018) available from: <https://www.pharmacy.gov.my/v2/sites/default/files/document-upload/gp-ubat-islam-printed.pdf>. The following workflow for supplying non-halal medication is adapted from the above guidelines.⁴

Workflow of Supplying Non-*Halal* Medication⁴

Standard Treatment



Life threatening cases



5 Resources

The manufacturer's Product Information (PI) gives details on the composition of the medicine (i.e. listing the active and inactive constituents/ingredients) and provides some form of description on how the medicine is produced (e.g. whether manufacture of the product included exposure to animal derived materials). However the information regarding whether the gelatin in products has come from beef or pork is not always stated in manufacturer's PI but may be important for some people who may want to avoid even traces of these particular animal products. If patients are concerned about whether the drug or excipients within their medicines are of animal origin, they could seek the information from their pharmacist or doctor who can check with the manufacturer of the product.

6 Appendices

Appendix A – Porcine (Pig) Products

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Enoxaparin Sodium 40mg Injection, Enoxaparin Sodium 60mg Injection	Clexane®	Derived from porcine intestinal mucosa but no traces of porcine DNA found in the end product ⁵
	Inhixa®	Derived from porcine intestinal mucosa but no traces of porcine DNA found in the end product ⁶
Factor IX, Factor II Factor VII & Factor X in combination 500IU/vial injection	Octaplex®	Porcine source ⁷

Appendix B – Bovine (Cow) Products

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Amoxicillin 250mg Capsule	Betamox, Synamox	Source of capsule: Gelatin (Halal certified bovine source) ^{8,9}
Alfacalcidol 0.25mcg Capsule, Alfacalcidol 1mcg Capsule	One-Alpha®	Source of gelatin: Bovine ¹⁰
Ampicillin Sodium & Sulbactam Sodium 375mg Tablet	Unasyn®	Excipient: Lactose hydrate (bovine milk) and Magnesium stearate (tallow oil) ¹¹
Calcitriol 0.25mcg Capsule	Osteocap®	Source of capsule: Gelatin (Bovine) ¹²
Celecoxib 200mg Capsule	Celebrex®, Rabirox	Source of capsule shell: Gelatin (Bovine) ^{13,14}
Charcoal, Activated 250mg Tablet	Dyna Charcoal Tablet	Source of gelatin: Bovine ¹⁵

Clindamycin HCl 300mg Capsule	Tidact [®] , Y.S.P	Source of gelatin: Bovine ¹⁶
Cloxacillin 250mg Capsule, Cloxacillin 500mg Capsule	Cloxacilla, Cloxacap	Source of gelatin: Bovine ^{17,18}
Dexamethasone 4mg Tablet	Vextasone	Source of lactose: Bovine ¹⁹
Doxycycline 100mg Capsule	Pharmaniaga Doxycycline	Source of gelatin: Bovine ²⁰
Duloxetine 30 mg Capsule	Dulox 30	Source of gelatin: Bovine ²¹
Dutasteride 0.5mg Capsule	Avodart [®]	Source of gelatin: Bovine ²²
Eplerenone 25mg Capsule	Inspra [®]	Lactose from bovine source ²³
Esomeprazole 40mg Capsule	Emanera	Source of gelatin: Bovine ²⁴
Essential Phospholipids, Nicotinamide, Cyanocobalamine, Tocopheryl, Pyridoxine, Thiamine, Riboflavine Capsule	Livovid	Source of gelatin: Bovine ²⁵
Factor VIIa (Recombinant) eptacog alfa (activated)	NovoSeven [®]	Contains trace amounts bovine IgG protein and other bovine proteins ²⁶
Fluconazole 100mg Capsule	Pharmaniaga Fluconazole	Gelatin derived from bovine source ²⁷
Gabapentin 300mg Capsule	Neuran	Source of capsule: bovine ²⁸
Gemfibrozil 300mg Capsule	Pharmaniaga Gemfibrozil	Gelatin derived from bovine source ²⁹
Heparin Sodium 1000units/ml Injection	Heparinol [®] 1000IU/ml	Derived from bovine mucous ³⁰
Heparin Sodium 5000units/ml Injection	Unihepa 5000IU/ml	Derived from bovine mucous ³¹
Heparin Sodium 50 units in Sodium Chloride Injection	Heparinol [®] 10	Derived from bovine ³²
Hydrocortisone 10mg Tablet	Hydrocortison Orion	Lactose (calf rennet) ³³
Itraconazole 100mg Capsule	Inox	Source of gelatin: Bovine ³⁴
Loperamide 2mg Capsule	Lomodium	Source of gelatin: Bovine ³⁵
Mefenamic Acid 250mg Capsule	Pontacid	Source of gelatin: Bovine ³⁶

Modified Fluid Gelatin 4% Injection (Succinylated Gelatin)	Infusol® SG	Source of gelatin: Bovine ³⁷
Omeprazole 20mg Capsule	Ometac	Source of gelatin: Bovine ³⁸
Oseltamivir 75mg Capsule	Osmivir	Source of gelatin: Bovine ³⁹
Phenytoin 30mg Capsule	Dilantin®	Source of gelatin: Bovine ⁴⁰
Phenytoin 100mg Capsule	Dilantin®	Source of gelatin: Bovine ⁴⁰
Pregabalin 75mg Capsule	Novugab	Source of gelatin: Bovine ⁴¹
Rabies Vaccine Injection	Verorab	Contains bovine serum albumin (not more than 50 nanogram per dose) ⁴²
Rifampicin 150mg Capsule, Rifampicin 300mg Capsule	Royce Rifampicin	Source of gelatin: Bovine ⁴³
Tramadol 50mg Capsule	Pengesic	Source of gelatin: Bovine ⁴⁴
Tranexamic Acid 250mg Capsule	Tren	Source of gelatin: Bovine ⁴⁵

Appendix C – Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Denosumab 60mg Solution for Injection	Prolia®	Produced in a mammalian cell line (Chinese Hamster Ovary) ⁴⁶
Erythropoietin Human Recombinant Alfa Injection	Eprex®	Recombinant human EPO expressed in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells ⁴⁷
Idarucizumab 2.5g/50ml Solution for Injection/Infusion	Praxbind®	Produced in recombinant DNA technology in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells ⁴⁸
Factor VIIa (Recombinant) eptacog alfa (activated)	NovoSeven®	Produced from baby hamster kidney cells ²⁶
Tenecteplase 10,000 unit (50mg) Injection	Metalyse®	Recombinant DNA technology in Chinese Hamster Ovary cell line ⁴⁹

Appendix D – Murine (Mouse)

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Factor VIIa (Recombinant) eptacog alfa (activated)	NovoSeven®	Contains trace amounts of mouse IgG protein ²⁶
Palivizumab 100mg Injection	Synagis®	Humanized monoclonal antibody composed of 5% murine amino acid sequences ⁵⁰
Somatropin 6mg Injection	Saizen®	Prepared from genetically engineered mammalian cells (recombinant mouse cells) ⁵¹

Appendix E – Equine (Horse)

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Antivenene Green Pit Viper 0.7mg/ml Injection	Green Pit Viper 0.7mg/ml Antivenin	Immunisation host: Equine (Horse) serum ⁵²
Antivenene Neuro Polyvalent Snake Injection	Polyvalent Snake Antivenin	Contains polyvalent equine immunoglobulins with specific antibodies ⁵³
Conjugated Oestrogens 0.3mg Tablet	Premarin®	Pregnant mares' urine ⁵⁴
Conjugated Oestrogens 0.625mg Tablet	Premarin®	Pregnant mares' urine ⁵⁵

Appendix F – Egg/Chicken

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Amino Acids, Glucose and Lipid with Electrolytes Injection	SmofKabiven	Contain purified egg phospholipids ⁵⁶
Emulsion for Infusion	Kabiven™	Contains egg phospholipids ⁵⁷
	NuTRIflex Lipix Peri, NuTRIflex Lipid Plus	Egg lecithin ^{58,59}
Etomidate 20mg Injection	Etomidate®-Lipuro	Egg lecithin ⁶⁰
Fat Soluble Vitamin	Vitalipid™	Egg lecithin ⁶¹
Influenza virus vaccine	Influvac® Tetra	Propagated in fertilized hens' eggs from healthy chicken flocks and may contain traces of eggs (such as ovalbumin, chicken proteins) ⁶²
	Vaxigrip Tetra	Prepared from virus grown in the allantoic cavity of embryonated eggs ⁶³
Fat Emulsion 20% for IV Infusion Injection	SMOFlipid®	Contains egg phospholipids ⁶⁴
Propofol	Fresofol 1% MCT/LCT Emulsion For Injection or Infusion	Contains purified egg phosphatides ⁶⁵

Appendix G – Other Animals

Generic name	Product name	Comment
Amino Acids, Glucose and Lipid with Electrolytes Injection	SmofKabiven	Contain fish oil ⁵⁵
Digoxin Immune Fab Injection	DigiFab	From sheep ⁶⁶
Fat Emulsion 20% for IV Infusion Injection	SMOFlipid 20%	Contains fish oil ⁶⁴
Insulin Aspart 30% and Protaminated Insulin Aspart 70% 100IU/ml Injection	NovoMix	Contain protamine sulfate (protein derived from salmon sperm) ⁶⁷
Insulin Recombinant Synthetic Human, Intermediate-Acting 100IU/ml Injection	Insulatard, Insugen N	Contain protamine sulfate (protein derived from salmon sperm) ^{68,69}
Insulin Recombinant Synthetic Human Premixed 100IU/ml Injection	Mixtard, Insugen 30/70	Contain protamine sulfate (protein derived from salmon sperm) ^{70,71}
Hydrocortisone 10mg Tablet	Hydrocortison Orion	Contains fish gelatin ⁷²
Levothyroxine sodium	Euthyrox	Contains fish gelatin ⁷³
Protamine Sulfate Injection	Taminfate	Extracted from salmon milts ⁷⁴

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BORANG KEIZINAN UNTUK MENJALANI RAWATAN MENGGUNAKAN UBAT / PRODUK YANG MENGANDUNGI UNSUR HAIWAN

NAMA UBAT :

UNSUR HAIWAN :

PENYATAAN KEIZINAN DARIPADA PESAKIT

Saya telah dimaklumkan oleh doktor dan saya faham tentang penggunaan ubat dan rawatan yang akan diberikan kepada saya seperti berikut:

Ubat yang digunakan berasal dari unsur haiwan yang dinyatakan di atas

Penerangan yang jelas telah diberikan kepada saya bahawa rawatan ini perlu diberikan kerana tiada alternatif atau alternatif yang setara dari segi keberkesanan dan keselamatan.

Saya telah diberi peluang untuk bertanya tentang penggunaan ubat tersebut dalam rawatan ini.

Saya faham dengan menandatangani borang ini, saya **bersetuju / tidak bersetuju** untuk menerima ubat yang disarankan dan bertanggungjawab terhadap penggunaan ubat ini sepanjang rawatan diberikan.

**Potong yang tidak berkenaan*

Tandatangan pesakit / waris :

Nama pesakit / waris :

No Kad Pengenalan pesakit / waris :

Hubungan dengan pesakit :

Tarikh :

No. telefon untuk dihubungi :

Tandatangan dan cop rasmi Pakar /

Pegawai Perubatan :

Tarikh :



CONSENT FORM FOR TREATMENT USING MEDICINE WITH ANIMAL ORIGIN

Medicine(s) :

Animal Origin :

STATEMENT OF CONSENT BY PATIENT

I have been informed by the doctor and I understand the indication and usage of this medicine for the purpose of treatment as detailed below:

- Medicine that will be used for my treatment is derived from the animal origin as mentioned above.
- I have been educated on the necessity of the recommended treatment, in view of the absence of other treatment options with similar safety and efficacy profile.
- I have been given the opportunity to acquire all necessary information to clarify any doubts regarding the proposed medicine and treatment.

I understand that by signing this consent form, I **agree / disagree** with the recommended medicine and will take full responsibility for all risks related to the use of medicine throughout the course of treatment.

Patient's signature / Next of kin :

Patient's name / Next of kin :

NRIC patient / Next of kin :

Relationship with patient :

Date :

Contact number :

Signature and Official Stamp of
Specialist / Medical Officer :

Date :

Kindly attach this form in the patient's case

