Background Because of antibiotic resistance problems and frequent inappropriate use of antimicrobial agents in hospitals, these drugs have often been the target of attempts to restrict their use. Purpose To analyse the appropriateness of use of restricted-use antibiotics approved by the Drug and Therapeutics Committee (DTC). Materials and Methods The study was conducted prospectively from October 2011 to February 2012 in our hospital. We included all patients treated with restricted antibiotics. The data required for the clinical monitoring of patients were collected from the clinical history. The variables were: age of the patient and laboratory data, clinical service, justification of the indication and duration of treatment. Results We included a total of 100 patients, of whom 39 were treated with ertapenem (39%), 7 with tigecycline (7%), 49 with linezolid (49%) and 5 with daptomycin (5%). The percentage of non-compliance, based on criteria for use approved by the DTC, was 14%. In analysing the results for Services we found that 90% of prescriptions that conformed to the approved DTC indications were prescribed by General Surgery, 81.8% by Internal Medicine, 55% by Infectious Diseases, 85% by Traumatology, 71.4% by Cardiovascular Surgery, 66% by Pulmonology, 50% by Urology and 100% by other services. The suitability was 92.3% for ertapenem, 85.71% for tigecycline, 83.67% for linezolid and 60% for daptomycin. The average duration of treatment was 4.5 days for ertapenem, 12.5 days for linezolid, 11 days for tigecycline and 18 days for daptomycin. Conclusions 1. The appropriateness of use of restricted antibiotics as approved by the DTC, although acceptable, could be improved. 2. An antibiotic control programme between the Pharmacy and Infectious Diseases could improve the quality of patient care. No conflict of interest.

Background Due to the high toxicity of anticancer drugs and their low therapeutic index, any errors in anticancer drug treatment can cause serious injury, even at approved doses. For this reason it is necessary to achieve adequate therapeutic adherence and to avoid administration errors, which may have consequences on patient health and increased costs. Purpose To prevent errors in anticancer drug treatment, the Ministry of Health has developed a specific Recommendation addressed to healthcare workers (physicians, pharmacists and nurses). Materials and Methods A working group consisting of pharmacists, oncologists, nurses, psychologists and patients representatives was set up. The same format of Recommendations made by MoH for Patient Safety was followed. Results The Recommendation is addressed to Regions, Health facilities, clinical risk managers, healthcare workers; it finds application inside the Medical Oncology and Haematology Units of private and public hospitals, inside hospital pharmacies and at the patient’s home. The Recommendation is to protect patients needing anticancer drug treatments. Highlight: the hospital should provide working instruments and develop a procedure including all instructions for proper anticancer drug management. They also have to: draw up a Patient Safety Training Plan, promote communication and integration among health professionals, provide accurate and complete information to patients and their families, consider the psychological and emotional state of patients and give detailed indications for the delivery of drugs at discharge. Conclusions The Recommendation is a reference for health professionals involved in handling anticancer drugs, providing information about the patient’s objectives and expected benefits from treatment. The document provides guidance aimed at preventing errors that can occur during anticancer drug treatment and includes recommendations encouraging the promotion of clinical governance. A verification of this Recommendation is expected soon. Many experts gave their suggestions to facilitate its implementation. No conflict of interest.