

## Latest WHO Recommendation for 2025 Seasonal Influenza : FROM QUADRIVALENT TO TRIVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINES

BY : LILI SYAHIRAH

### WHAT IS INFLUENZA, OR THE FLU?

A highly contagious respiratory illness, which spreads easily through the air or when people touch contaminated surfaces. Influenza, or flu, is caused by **virus**, causing asymptomatic to symptomatic illness. Flu viruses mutate very rapidly and give rise to many different strains.

**Type A and B flu viruses** are the common causes of seasonal influenza epidemics.



### 1 INFLUENZA VACCINES

- Different vaccines are developed, targeting **3 or 4 strains of flu viruses** predicted to be most commonly circulating in the coming flu season
- Trivalent** influenza vaccine (TIV)
- Quadrivalent** influenza vaccine (QIV)

VIRUSES SUBTYPE/LINEAGE	QIV	VS	TIV
Influenza A(H1N1)	✓		✓
Influenza A(H3N2)	✓		✓
Influenza B(Victoria)	✓		✓
Influenza B(Yamagata)	✓		✗

### 2 REMOVAL OF B(YAMAGATA) FROM QIV

- WHO recommends **trivalent influenza vaccines**, removing B(Yamagata) viruses for 2025/2026 seasonal influenza
- No confirmed detections of circulating B/Yamagata lineage viruses after March 2020, hence it **no longer poses a threat** to public health
- Protection** from TIV and QIV is expected to be **similar**
- More **influenza vaccine doses** could be made because there is one less component to manufacture

### 3 CURRENT INFLUENZA VACCINE IN HCTM



Inactivated egg-based trivalent vaccines

### 4 SAFETY OF INFLUENZA VACCINES

- ✓ Child from 6 months of age (*inactivated influenza vaccine*)
- ✓ Pregnant women
- ✓ Breastfeeding women
- ✗ Shall be postponed in patients with **febrile illness** or **acute infection**
- ✗ **Hypersensitivity** to :
  - the active substances, or
  - any of the excipients, or
  - any component that may be present as traces, such as eggs



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#### References :

1. WHO Recommendation for Influenza Vaccine Composition for 2025-2026 Northern Hemisphere Influenza Seasons
2. WHO Recommendation for Influenza Vaccine Composition for 2025 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Seasons
3. Barr, I. G., & Subbarao, K. (2024). Implications of the apparent extinction of B/Yamagata-lineage human influenza viruses. *Npj Vaccines*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-024-01010-y>
4. Roches, A. D., Paradis, L., Gagnon, R., Lemire, C., Bégin, P., Carr, S., Chan, E. S., Paradis, J., Frenette, L., Ouakki, M., Benoit, M., & De Serres, G. (2012). Egg-allergic patients can be safely vaccinated against influenza. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 130(5), 1213-1216.e1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2012.07.046>
5. INFLUVAC® 2025 Product Insert

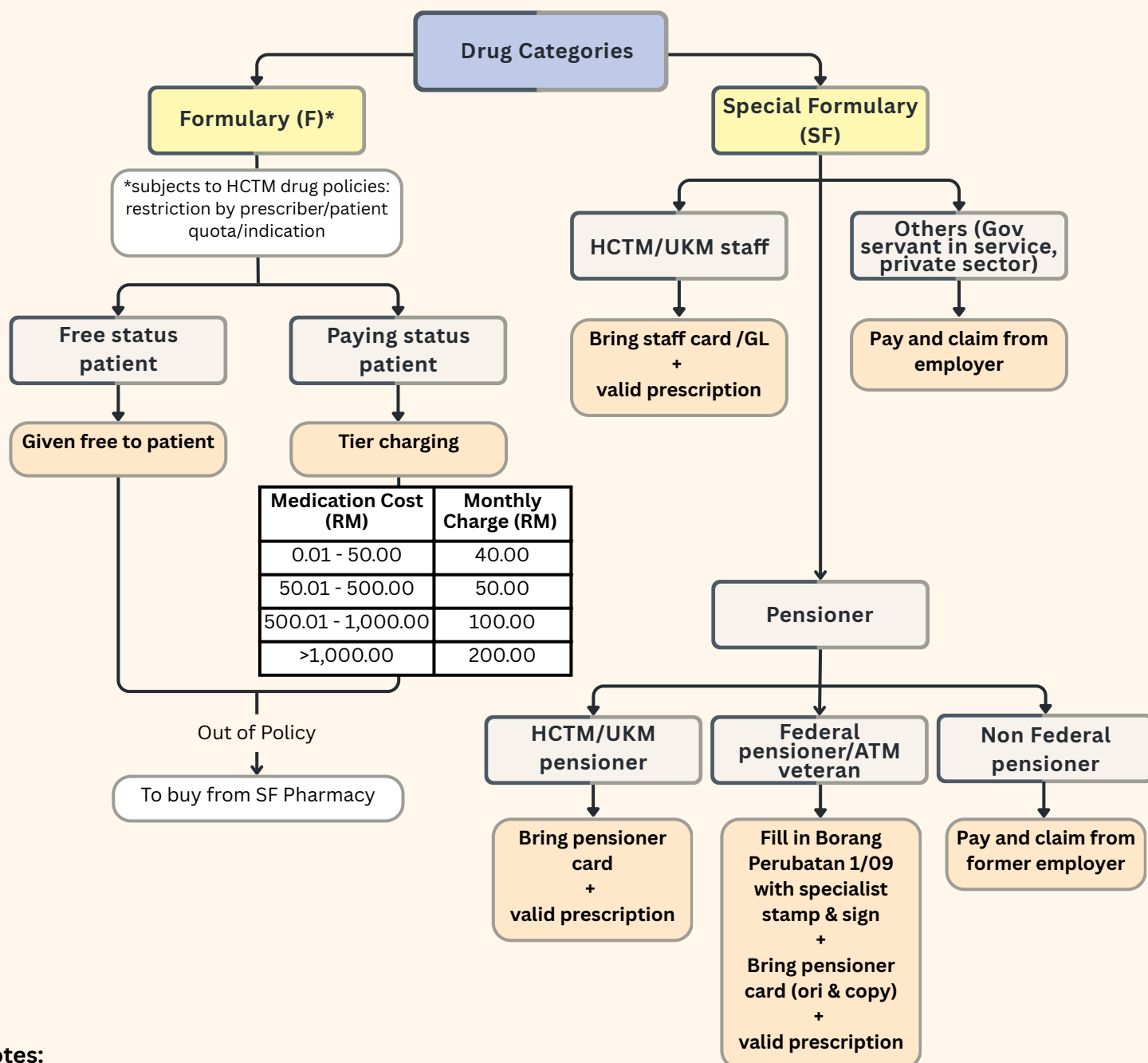
# HCTM DRUG CATEGORIES

By: Muhammad Firdaus

Following the implementation of full payment for Non-Formulary (NF) drugs at the NF Pharmacy on 1st June 2023, HCTM Management has approved the rebranding of the NF Pharmacy, now known as the **Special Formulary (SF) Pharmacy**.

Meanwhile, **Tier Charging for Formulary drugs** was implemented on 15th November 2024, beginning with outpatient clinics and later extended to inpatient and discharge prescriptions.

Below is the updated drug categories and policy in HCTM:



## Notes:

Subject to hospital policy changes

Federal Pensioner : AP & BP/ AX & AZ/ AZ & BZ/ AT & BT/ AS & BS

Non Federal Pensioner : AN / AB / AK / AY

Any inquiries : Contact SF Pharmacy 03-9145 5398/5399 or Drug Information

Centre 03-9145 5401/5415