



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 5, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0038


TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO); EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Reiteration of the Price Freeze of Essential Emergency Medicines due to the 2019 nCov Health Event

The Department of Health reiterates Department Memorandum No. 2020-0058 entitled “Price Freeze of Essential Emergency Medicines due to the 2019 nCov Health Event.”

This is to provide guidance to all partners and stakeholders to take the necessary steps to prevent profiteering, hoarding, and cartels during the 2019-nCoV Acute Respiratory Disease (ARD) situation.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 31, 2020

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
NO. 2020 - 0058

FOR: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, CHIEFS OF HOSPITALS OF SPECIALTY / SPECIALIZED / RETAINED HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA, HEADS OF ATTACHED AGENCIES AND OTHERS CONCERNED UNITS

SUBJECT: PRICE FREEZE OF ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY MEDICINES DUE TO THE 2019 - NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) HEALTH EVENT


The Department of Health (DOH) is mandated to monitor and regulate drug prices as well as ensure that consumers are adequately protected against profiteering, hoarding, cartels and the like that compromise their access to essential pharmaceutical products.

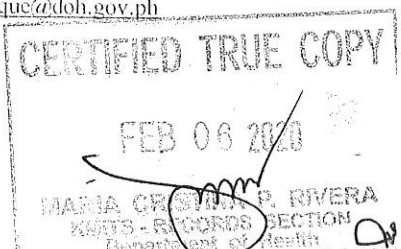
As stated in Section 6 of Republic Act no. 7581, "An Act Providing Protection to Consumers by Stabilizing the Prices of Basic Necessities and Prime Commodities and by Prescribing Measures Against Under Price Increase During Emergency Situations and Like Occasions", it is the policy of the State to ensure the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at all time.

Essential medicines have been identified as a basic necessity especially in time of natural calamities and man-made disasters that put the health and lives of Filipino at risk because of unfavorable conditions that cause or aggravate disease which may lead to epidemics and massive death.

Due to the on-going global concern on the spread of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the DOH hereby orders a price freeze on Essential Emergency Medicines (Annex I) in the entire country.

Unless otherwise lifted by the President, it shall remain in effect for the duration of the situation. The Administrative Order (AO) No. 2014-0001 has been provided for your reference (Annex 2). For immediate compliance.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III MD, MSc
Secretary of Health



ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
Analgesics			
1	Ibuprofen, 400mg Tablet	0.71	28.00
2	Ketorolac (As Tromethamol) 30 mg/ml Solution 1 ml Ampule	12.50	360.00
3	Mefenamic Acid 500 mg Tablet	0.62	49.00
4	Paracetamol, 250mg/5ml, 60ml	10.00	264.00
5	Paracetamol 150 mg/ml Solution 2 ml Ampule	3.77	155.00
6	Paracetamol, 500mg Tablet	0.25	19.00
7	Tramadol 50 mg/ml Solution 1 ml Ampule	3.00	239.00
8	Tramadol 50 mg/ml Solution 2 ml Ampule	7.05	260.00
** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines			
Anti-infective Medicines / Antibiotics			
9	Azithromycin, 250mg Tablet/Capsule	37.45	183.00
10	Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml Granules/Powder For Suspension (As Trihydrate) 60 ml	13.00	337.00
11	Amoxicillin, 250mg Capsule	0.77	83.00
12	Amoxicillin, 500 mg, Capsule (As Trihydrate)	1.00	27.00
13	Azithromycin, 200mg/5ml Suspension, 15ml Bottle	84.50	427.50
14	Cefalexin, 500mg Capsule	1.95	70.00
15	Cefixime, 100mg/5ml Suspension, 30 ml Bottle	35.00	928.00
16	Cefixime, 200mg Capsule	6.50	200.00
17	Ceftriaxone, 1g Injection + 10ml	5.00	1,815.00
18	Ciprofloxacin, 500mg, Tablet (As Hydrochloride)	1.36	64.00
19	Cloxacillin, 250mg Capsule	2.00	60.00
20	Cloxacillin, 125mg/5ml Powder For Suspension (As Sodium Salt) 60 ml	15.00	220.00
21	Cloxacillin, 500 mg, Capsule (As Sodium Salt)	2.00	33.00
22	Cotrimoxazole, 200 mg, Sulfamethoxazole +40mg Trimethoprim Per 5ml, 60ml Suspension	10.00	288.00
23	Cotrimoxazole, 400 mg, Sulfamethoxazole +80mg Trimethoprim Per 5ml, 60 ml Suspension	17.25	357.65
24	Cotrimoxazole, 800mg, Tablet Sulfamethoxazole +160mg Trimethoprim	1.50	62.00
25	Doxycycline, 100mg, Capsule	1.00	190.50
26	Erythromycin, 500 mg, Tablet (As Stearate)	3.00	64.00
27	Metronidazole, 500 mg, Tablet	1.00	159.00
Antibacterial Agents			
28	Azithromycin, 200mg/5ml Powder For Suspension, 15ml	84.50	427.50

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
29	Azithromycin, 500mg Tablet	7.00	151.43
30	Cefuroxime, 250mg/5mL Granules For Suspension, 60mL	72.00	624.00
31	Cefuroxime, 500mg Tablet	2.50	130.04
32	Co-Amoxiclav 500mg Amoxicillin + 125mg Potassium Clavulanate Tablet	7.50	116.00

Antifungals Medicines

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
Antivirals Medicines			
33	Aciclovir 200mg Tablet	2.62	124.00
34	Aciclovir 200mg/5ml Suspension, 60ml	440.00	1,012.00
35	Oseltamivir 75mg Capsule	107.00	157.00
Cardiovascular Medicines			
36	Captopril 50mg Tablet	3.00	28.00
37	Isosorbide 5 Mononitrate 60mg Tablet	7.80	65.00
38	Isosorbide Dinitrate 5 mg Tablet	2.63	59.00
39	Isosorbide Dinitrate 10 mg Tablet	1.50	25.00
Corticosteroids			
40	Dexamethasone (As Sodium Phosphate) 4 mg/ml Solution 1 mL Ampule	13.50	200.00
41	Dexamethasone (As Sodium Phosphate) 4 mg/ml Solution 1 mL Vial	30.00	200.00
42	Dexamethasone (As Sodium Phosphate) 4 mg/ml Solution 2 mL Ampule	7.50	531.00
43	Dexamethasone (As Sodium Phosphate) 4 mg/ml Solution 2 mL Vial	10.88	290.25

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
44	Dexamethasone (As Sodium Phosphate) 5 mg/ml Solution 1 ml Ampule	2.00	153.25
45	Dexamethasone 0.10% Eye Drops Suspension 5 ml Bottle	209.00	585.00
46	Dexamethasone 3 mg Tablet	1.50	37.00
47	Dexamethasone 4 mg Tablet	1.50	75.00
48	Dexamethasone 500 mg Tablet	0.52	70.00
49	Dexamethasone 750 mg Tablet	13.50	31.70
50	Hydrocortisone (As Sodium Succinate) 100 mg Powder Vial	27.50	413.00
51	Hydrocortisone 1% Cream 10 G Tube	56.50	385.00
52	Hydrocortisone 1% Cream 5 G Tube	95.70	435.00
53	Hydrocortisone 1% Ointment 5 G Tube	169.00	222.00
54	Prednisone 10 mg Tablet	0.78	17.00
55	Prednisone 10 mg/5 ml Suspension 30 ml Bottle	82.50	210.00
56	Prednisone 10 mg/5 ml Suspension 60 ml Bottle	42.00	286.00
57	Prednisone 20 mg Tablet	1.00	26.00
58	Prednisone 30 mg Tablet Film Coated	8.00	26.00
59	Prednisone 5 mg Tablet	0.60	83.00
Diuretics			
60	Furosemide, 10mg/ml, 2ml Injection	3.00	160.00
61	Mannitol 20% Solution 500ml Bottle	65.00	550.00
** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines			
Psychotherapeutic Medicines			
62	Haloperidol, 5mg Tablet	4.00	35.89
63	Haloperidol, 5mg/ml 1ml Ampule	396.00	1,515.00
64	Haloperidol, 50mg/ml, 1ml Ampule	299.00	2,065.00
Respiratory Tract Medicines			
65	Acetylcysteine 100 mg Sachet	9.00	301.75
66	Acetylcysteine 100 mg/5 ml Suspension 150 ml Bottle	205.00	392.00
67	Acetylcysteine 200 mg Sachet	9.00	114.50
68	Acetylcysteine 200 mg/ml Solution 10 ml Ampule	126.00	353.00
69	Acetylcysteine 200 mg/ml Solution 25 ml Bottle	2,108.11	2,574.00
70	Acetylcysteine 600 mg Tablet Effervescent	10.00	367.27
71	Butamirate (As Citrate) 50 mg Tablet	2.00	57.20
72	Butamirate (As Citrate) 7.5 mg/5 ml Syrup 120 ml Bottle	110.00	427.00
73	Butamirate (As Citrate) 7.5 mg/5 ml Syrup 60 ml Bottle	50.00	306.00
Vitamins			

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
74	Ascorbic Acid, 500mg Tablet	0.50	11.00

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
Anti-Emetic			
75	Metoclopramide 10mg Tablet	0.69	22.00
76	Metoclopramide (As Hydrochloride) 5 mg/ml Solution 2 mL Ampoule	3.04	155.00
Antidiabetics			
77	Regular Insulin (Recombinant Dna, Human) 100 IU/ml Solution 10 mL Vial	117.00	1,989.00
Hypercholesterolemia Agent			
78	Simvastatin, 20 mg Tablet	0.73	40.00
Antihypertensives & Anti-Aginal Agents			
79	Amlodipine, 10 mg Tablet	0.19	38.50
80	Aspirin, 80mg Tablet	0.48	8.50
81	Clonidine 150mcg Tablet	4.00	56.00
82	Clonidine 150mcg/ml, 1ml Ampul	102.00	293.00
83	Enalapril, 10 mg (As Maleate)	5.00	44.75
84	Felodipine 5mg Tablet	2.50	48.00
85	Hydrochlorothiazide, 25mg	3.00	8.25
86	Losartan, 50mg (As Potassium Salt)	0.53	57.55
87	Metoprolol, 50 mg (As Tartarate)	0.70	31.36
88	Metoprolol 100mg Tablet	1.00	45.64
89	Nicardipine 1mg/mL, 10mL Ampul	115.00	1,374.47
90	Nifedipine 10mg Capsule	2.40	26.00
91	Nimodipine 30mg Tablet	40.00	74.00

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
Antiasthma			
92	Fluticasone + Salmeterol (125mcg/25 mcg)	215.00	949.00
93	Budesonide 100 mcg/Dose X 200 Metered Doses Nasal Aqueous Solution	965.60	965.60
94	Budesonide 200 mcg/Dose X 100 Doses Dry Powder Inhaler	1,458.00	1,736.00
95	Budesonide 200 mcg/Dose X 100 Doses Metered Dose Inhaler	1,451.65	1,451.65
96	Budesonide 200 mcg/Dose X 200 Doses Dry Powder Inhaler	1,422.00	1,422.00
97	Budesonide 200 mcg/Dose X 300 Doses Dry Powder Inhaler	75.90	75.90
98	Budesonide 250 mcg/ml Solution 2 ml Nebule	25.00	230.89
99	Budesonide 500mcg/ml Solution 2 ml Nebule	23.50	252.50
100	Fluticasone 0.05% Dose X 120 Doses Nasal Aqueous Solution	322.00	322.00
101	Fluticasone 125 mcg/Dose X 120 Doses Metered Dose Inhaler	457.90	1,518.00
102	Fluticasone 125 mcg/Dose X 60 Doses Metered Dose Inhaler	1,056.00	1,056.00
103	Fluticasone 250 mcg/Dose Dry Powder Inhaler	724.85	1,425.00
104	Fluticasone 250 mcg/ml Respiratory Solution 2 ml	92.00	130.26
105	Fluticasone 50 mcg/Dose X 120 Doses Metered Dose Inhaler	209.14	675.00
106	Ipratropium + Salbutamol 21 mcg + 120 mcg X 200 Doses X 10 ml Metered Dose Inhaler	325.00	495.00
107	Ipratropium + Salbutamol 500 mcg + 2.5 mg X 2.5 ml (Unit Dose) Respiratory Solution	3.15	151.00
108	Ipratropium + Salbutamol 500 mcg + 2.5 mg X 20 ml (Unit Dose) Respiratory Solution	10.33	161.00
109	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 100 mL/Dose X 200 Doses Breath Actuated MDI	8.25	492.00
110	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 100 mL/Dose X 200 Doses Metered Dose Inhaler	106.00	535.00
111	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 100 mL/Dose X 300 Doses Metered Dose Inhaler	150.00	398.00
112	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 100 mL/Dose X 400 Doses Breath Actuated MDI	110.00	413.00
113	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 2 mg Tablet	0.30	160.00
114	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 2 mg/5 ml Syrup 30 ml Bottle	14.00	157.00
115	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 2 mg/5ml Syrup 120 ml Bottle	23.10	241.00
116	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 2 mg/5ml Syrup 60 ml Bottle	6.00	185.51
117	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 2 mg/ml Solution 2.5 ml (Unit Dose) Nebule	6.00	250.00
118	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 200 mL/Dose Dry Powder	7.50	460.00
119	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 4 mg Tablet Modified Release	2.00	3.85
120	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 5 mg/ml Respiratory Solution 10 ml (Multidose) Nebule	37.00	44.00
121	Salbutamol (As Sulfate) 8 mg Tablet Modified Release	8.00	10.00
122	Salbutamol 1 mg/ml Respiratory Solution 2.5 ml (Unit Dose) Nebule	2.81	50.00

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
123	Salbutamol 1 mg/ml Respiratory Solution 20 ml	26.67	40.60
124	Salbutamol 1 mg/ml Respiratory Solution 30 ml Bottle	50.00	156.00
125	Salbutamol (100mcg/inhalation)	106.00	535.00
Medicines for shock			
126	Norepinephrine 1mg/ml, 2ml Ampul	97.88	1,665.00
124	Norepinephrine (As Bitartrate) 1 mg/ml Solution 2 ml Ampule	106.00	1,335.00
Medicines for Electrolyte, Acid-Base and Caloric Disturbances			
128	10% Dextrose In Water 1L Bottle	52.95	150.00
129	5% Dextrose In 0.3% Sodium Chloride 1L Bottle	47.00	260.00
130	5% Dextrose In 0.9% Sodium Chloride 1L Bottle	42.00	200.00
131	5% Dextrose In Lactated Ringers 1L Bottle	33.00	200.00
132	5% Dextrose In Water 1L Bottle	42.00	250.00
133	Balanced Multiple Maintenance Solution 5% Dextrose, 500ml	33.00	165.00
134	Lactated Ringer'S Solution 1L Bottle	35.00	220.00
135	Magnesium Sulfate 250mg/ml Solution 10ml Amp	20.00	263.00
136	Oral Rehydration Salts (Ors 75-Replacement) 75 Replacement 5.125G Powder Sachet)	2.67	18.50
137	Potassium Chloride 2Meq/mL, 5ml Ampul	30.00	250.00
138	Potassium Chloride 2 Meq/ml Solution 20 mL Vial	16.00	200.00
139	Sodium Bicarbonate 1 Meq/ml Solution 50 mL Ampule)	65.00	371.91
140	Sodium Chloride 2.5Meq/mL, 50ml Vial	74.00	140.00

** Range of prices from generics to branded medicines

ANNEX 1 PRICE FREEZE ON EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

	Medicine	LOWEST	HIGHEST
Medical Supplies*			
141	N95	45.00	105.00
142	Disposable Face Mask	1.10	8.00
143	Ethyl Alcohol 70% Solution 60ml	17.25	25.50
144	Ethyl Alcohol 70% Solution 250ml	36.75	41.75
145	Ethyl Alcohol 70% Solution 500ml	61.00	74.25
146	Sterile Gloves 50 Pairs/Box (Size 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8)	295.00	450.00
147	Sterile Gloves Per Pair(Size 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8)	18.00	21.00
148	Nebulizer	1,495.00	3,980.00
149	Neb Kit: Adult	87.00	120.00
150	Neb Kit: Pedia	63.00	142.00
151	Oxygen Cannula: Adult	24.00	60.00
152	Oxygen Cannula: Pedia	18.50	53.00
153	Oxygen Cannula: Neonatal	24.00	50.00