



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 13, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

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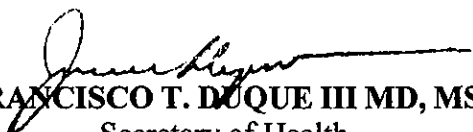
TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT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

SUBJECT: Effectivity of Executive Order No. 155, "Further Improving Access to Healthcare Through the Regulation of Prices in the Retail of Drugs and Medicines"

The Executive Order (EO) No. 155, "*Further Improving Access to Healthcare Through the Regulation of Prices in the Retail of Drugs and Medicines*" was issued by the President of the Philippines on 07 December 2021. The EO No. 155 imposed price regulation through Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and/or Maximum Wholesale Price (MRP) on 34 drug molecules or 71 drug formulas. These medicines address the leading causes of morbidity in the country.

A non-extendable period of ninety (90) days was given to allow manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers to dispose of existing inventory stocks. As such, the said EO shall be in full implementation by 23 March 2022.

All Centers for Health Development (CHDs) are hereby directed to disseminate this information to the following: drugstore chains, independent drugstores, local and national government hospitals, local government units, private hospitals, pharmaceutical manufacturers, importers, distributors, traders, wholesalers and all other public and private offices involved in the procurement, acquisition and reimbursement of drugs and medicines, for their strict compliance.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III MD, MSc
Secretary of Health



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 155

**FURTHER IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE THROUGH THE
REGULATION OF PRICES IN THE RETAIL OF DRUGS AND
MEDICINES**

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9502 or the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008," declares it a policy of the State to protect public health and, when public interest or circumstances of extreme urgency so require, to adopt appropriate measures to promote and ensure access to affordable quality drugs and medicines for all;

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 104 (s. 2020) imposed Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and/or Maximum Wholesale Price (MWP) on 87 drug molecules or 133 drug formulas of selected drugs and medicines which address the leading causes of morbidity among Filipinos;

WHEREAS, EO No. 104 created a Technical Working Group (TWG), composed of representatives from the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), for the purpose of reviewing, in consultation with stakeholders, the prices of other drug molecules or drug formulas;

WHEREAS, after conducting a price review using the methods of international reference pricing among ASEAN countries, mark-up regulation, and stakeholders' consultation, the TWG recommended, and the DOH endorsed the imposition of MRP and MWP on the remaining drug formulas of selected drugs and medicines; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the overall strategy under RA No. 11223 or the "Universal Health Care Act," to improve access to affordable and quality medicines and reduce health-related out-of-pocket expenses of Filipinos, there is a need to further impose MRP and MWP on other drugs and medicines commonly used for the leading causes of morbidity in the country;

NOW THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Price Regulation on the Retail and Wholesale of Drugs and Medicines. The price regulation through MRP and/or MWP under EO No. 104 shall be imposed on the 34 drug molecules or 71 drug formulas indicated in Annex A of this Order.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Section 2. Labelling Requirement for MRP Drugs and Medicines. Every manufacturer, importer, distributor, wholesaler, trader or retailer of a drug/medicine intended for sale shall display the retail price which shall not exceed the MRP. The MRP, preceded by the words "RETAIL PRICE NOT TO EXCEED," and "UNDER DRUG PRICE REGULATION," on a red strip, shall be clearly printed on the label of the immediate container of the drug and medicine and the minimum pack thereof offered for retail. The labelling shall also be applied to drug formulas or medicines under MRP through EO No. 104.

Section 3. Review. The list of medicines and their corresponding MRPs and/or MWPs, and those covered by EO No. 104, shall be subject to the review of the DOH, in consultation with the DTI, six (6) months after the effectivity of this Order, and every 6 months thereafter.

Section 4. Measures to Improve Access to Medicines. The DOH, in consultation with relevant government agencies, including the DTI and the Philippine Competition Commission, is hereby directed to study and propose measures, including, but not limited to pooled procurement, price negotiation and other mechanisms, which will influence the supply, demand and expenditure on drugs and medicines, in accordance with RA No. 9502, and other relevant laws and regulations.

Section 5. Implementing Guidelines. As may be necessary, the DOH shall formulate guidelines for the effective implementation of this Order.

Section 6. Agency Support. The Presidential Communications Operations Office is hereby directed to provide the necessary support and assistance to the DOH for the dissemination of information relative to this Order.

All other government agencies and instrumentalities including government-owned or -controlled corporations, government financial institutions and state colleges and universities, are hereby directed to provide the necessary support to the DOH in the information dissemination, enforcement and implementation of this Order.

Section 7. Violations. Any violation of this Order shall be dealt with in accordance with RA No. 9502, and other related laws. Pursuant to Section 19 of RA No. 9502, the Secretary of Health is directed to investigate alleged violations of the MRP and/or MWP under this Order, impose administrative fines and penalties, and call upon and deputize government entities for assistance necessary to carry out the purpose of this Order.

Section 8. Transition. Within a non-extendable period of ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Order, existing inventory stock shall be disposed of at prevailing prices. Thereafter, regardless of the status of the existing stock, the MRP and/or MWP under this Order shall be strictly implemented.

Section 9. Separability. If any part or provision of this Order shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 10. Repeal. EO No. 821 (s. 2009) is hereby repealed. All executive issuances, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

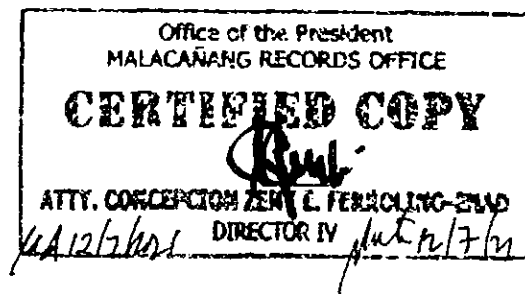
Section 11. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 7th day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



By the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary



ANNEX

List of Medicines and Corresponding Maximum Wholesale Price (MWP) and Maximum Retail Price (MRP)

No.	Molecule	Strength and Form	Proposed MWP (Php)	Proposed MRP (Php)
Agents affecting bone metabolism				
1.	Ibandronic Acid	150 mg film-coated tablet	1,354.22	1,626.30
Analgesics				
2.	Oxycodone	10 mg capsule	75.68	117.00
3.	Oxycodone	5 mg capsule	59.23	92.63
4.	Sumatriptan	50 mg film-coated tablet	143.00	217.00
Anesthetics				
5.	Dexmedetomidine	100 mcg/mL, 2 mL vial	1,539.60	2,172.24
Anti-Angina				
6.	Nitroglycerin	1 mg/mL, 10 mL ampule	390.00	450.00
7.	Nitroglycerin	5 mg patch	52.07	64.80
Antiarrhythmics				
8.	Flecainide	100 mg tablet	51.51	72.60
Anti-asthma & Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Medicines				
9.	Fenoterol + Ipratropium Bromide	1.75 mg/ 4 mL, 4 mL unit-dose vial	42.93	69.71
10.	Fenoterol + Ipratropium Bromide	50 mcg + 20 mcg, 200 doses (10 mL) metered-dose inhaler	419.60	567.52
11.	Theophylline	250 mg sustained-release tablet	11.46	17.82
Antibiotics				
12.	Clavulanic Acid + Ticarcillin	1.6 g vial	350.85	462.30
13.	Clavulanic Acid + Ticarcillin	3.2 g vial	573.75	756.00
Anticoagulant				
14.	Tinzaparin	3,500 anti-XA IU, 0.35 mL pre-filled syringe	312.13	410.99
Anticonvulsant				
15.	Levetiracetam	100 mg/mL, 300 mL oral solution	1,545.25	1,936.27
Antidiabetic Drugs				
16.	Acarbose	100 mg tablet	8.04	11.66

17.	Acarbose	50 mg tablet	4.90	7.11
18.	Insulin Glulisine	100 U, 10 mL vial	980.82	1,241.03
19.	Insulin Lispro + Insulin Lispro Protamine	100 U/mL, 3 mL pre-filled pen	424.00	514.00
20.	Liraglutide	6 mg/mL, 3 mL pre-filled pen	2,527.10	3,173.88
21.	Metformin + Saxagliptin	1 g + 2.5 mg extended-release tablet	19.98	28.97
Antidiuretics				
22.	Desmopressin	0.1 mg tablet	50.60	79.27
23.	Desmopressin	60 mcg sublingual tablet	41.16	64.53
Antiemetics				
24.	Palonosetron	50 mcg/mL, 5 mL vial	2,606.57	3,666.00
Anti-Glaucoma				
25.	Acetazolamide	250 mg tablet	13.33	18.50
Anti-Hypercholesterolemia Medicines				
26.	Pravastatin	20 mg tablet	13.47	17.50
27.	Pravastatin	40 mg tablet	16.57	21.53
Antihypertensive Medicines				
28.	Amlodipine + Hydrochlorothiazide + Valsartan	10 mg + 160 mg + 12.5 mg film-coated tablet	17.83	25.85
29.	Amlodipine + Hydrochlorothiazide + Valsartan	5 mg + 160 mg + 12.5 mg film-coated tablet	17.60	25.52
30.	Amlodipine + Perindopril	10 mg + 10 mg tablet	33.04	47.91
31.	Amlodipine + Perindopril	10 mg + 5 mg tablet	37.93	46.19
32.	Amlodipine + Perindopril	5 mg + 10 mg tablet	31.53	36.26
33.	Amlodipine + Perindopril	5 mg + 5 mg tablet	28.06	32.26
34.	Amlodipine + Telmisartan	10 mg + 40 mg tablet	18.66	27.05
35.	Amlodipine + Telmisartan	10 mg + 80 mg tablet	26.64	38.63
36.	Amlodipine + Telmisartan	5 mg + 40 mg tablet	18.66	27.05
37.	Amlodipine + Telmisartan	5 mg + 80 mg tablet	26.64	38.63
38.	Atenolol + Chlortalidone	50 mg + 12.5 mg tablet	4.18	6.06
39.	Bosentan	125 mg film-coated tablet	726.63	1,145.00
40.	Fosinopril	10 mg tablet	16.12	20.87
41.	Fosinopril	20 mg tablet	19.74	25.56

42.	Hydrochlorothiazide + Quinapril	12.5 mg + 20 mg film-coated tablet	27.32	39.61
43.	Iloprost	10 mcg/mL, 2 mL nebule	1,121.92	1,587.48
44.	Indapamide + Perindopril	0.62 mg + 2 mg tablet	8.44	12.24
45.	Indapamide + Perindopril	1.2 mg + 5 mg film- coated tablet	17.68	25.63
46.	Lercanidipine	10 mg film-coated tablet	26.38	30.80
47.	Lercanidipine	20 mg film-coated tablet	35.81	41.74
48.	Metolazone	5 mg tablet	20.71	25.89
49.	Nimodipine	10 mg, 50 mL vial	1,497.04	2,112.65
50.	Quinapril	10 mg tablet	13.82	20.05
51.	Quinapril	20 mg tablet	23.06	33.43
52.	Quinapril	5 mg tablet	10.35	15.01
53.	Trandolapril + Verapamil	2 mg + 180 mg sustained-release capsule	21.01	30.46
54.	Verapamil	5 mg, 2 mL ampule	127.94	158.55
Anti-Neoplastic / Anti-Cancer Medicines				
55.	Afatinib	50 mg film-coated tablet	2,202.09	3,099.73
56.	Erlotinib	100 mg film-coated tablet	1,114.67	1,421.33
57.	Exemestane	25 mg tablet	249.40	365.96
58.	Fulvestrant	250 mg/ 5 mL, 5 mL pre-filled syringe	16,839.7 6	23,592.47
59.	Gefitinib	250 mg tablet	2,218.28	3,122.40
Antiparkinsonian Drug				
60.	Bromocriptine	2.5 mg tablet	78.47	97.65
Diuretic				
61.	Bumetanide	1 mg tablet	14.55	20.88
Drugs for Overactive Bladder				
62.	Oxybutynin	5 mg tablet	1.68	2.73
Growth Hormone Inhibitor				
63.	Octreotide	30 mg vial	63,362.5 0	88,729.48
Immunosuppressant Drugs				
64.	Everolimus	10 mg tablet	2,718.75	3,628.09
65.	Everolimus	5 mg tablet	1,359.38	1,814.04
66.	Infliximab	100 mg, 10 mL vial	21,000.0 0	30,000.00

67.	Tacrolimus	5 mg prolonged-release capsule	470.72	675.81
68.	Tocilizumab	80 mg/ 4 mL, 4 mL vial	6,440.00	9,032.81
Iron Chelating Agents				
69.	Deferasirox	125 mg dispersible tablet	220.27	361.32
70.	Deferasirox	250 mg dispersible tablet	440.53	641.42
Psoriasis, Seborrhea & Ichthyosis Medicine				
71.	Betamethasone + Salicylic Acid	0.5 mg + 30 mg/ g, 10 g ointment	200.64	301.12

The MWPs are exclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT). The stated MRPs are VAT-inclusive except for VAT-exempted medicines.