



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 22, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 – 0134

TO : **DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHDs), CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM), LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGU) HEALTH FACILITIES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **GUIDELINES ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE MAXIMUM PRICE IN THE RANGE USED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE 2020 DRUG PRICE REFERENCE INDEX (DPRI) FOR ALL DRUGS AND MEDICINES**

Recognizing the mandate of Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as “*Universal Health Care Act*” to guide DOH-owned health care providers by price reference indices and Republic act No. 9502 otherwise known as “*Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines act of 2008*” to institute a fair, transparent and rational drug pricing system in the country, the Drug Price Reference Index (DPRI) aims to maximize government funds in the expenditure for essential medicines by minimizing the observed variations of prices of medicines across public health facilities.

Due to the on-going global concern on the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and to ensure that there are adequate supplies of drugs and medicines in government agencies, Local Government Unit (LGU) owned hospitals, DOH hospitals including specialty centers and corporations, Centers for Health Development (CHD) and Ministry of Health – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MOH-BARMM), the DOH hereby allows the use of the maximum price in the range used in the calculation of the 2020 DPRI (without adding the inflation cost) for COVID-19 emergency medicines.

All CHDs and MOH-BARMM are hereby directed to disseminate the information to all Provincial, Municipal and City Hospitals, LGUs and extend necessary assistance as needed.

This issuance shall remain in effect only for the duration of the abovementioned situation.

For strict and prompt compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerardo V. Bayugo", is written over a horizontal line.

GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO I
OIC - Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team