Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Maynila

March 0, 1989

DECS O R D E R
No. 21, s. 1989

IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS COMPLIANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT 6675 (GENERIC ACT of 1988)

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. In compliance with Republic Act 6675, otherwise known as the Generic Act of 1988, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports hereby issues guidelines for the implementation of this Act within its realm of responsibility.

2. An intensive information and education drive shall be undertaken to reach school personnel and students at all educational levels. Such educational campaign shall include information on the illness or symptoms, which each generically named drug is supposed to cure or alleviate, as well as its contraindication. This information and education drive shall be done thru:

- the active involvement of all designated DECS Information Officers in the dissemination of information relative to the use of generics;

- inclusion of the Generic Act as a priority additional topic for discussion during conferences and seminars;

- mobilization of school health personnel on the information and educational drive;

- integration of the use of generics in appropriate subject areas in the secondary and the tertiary curricula; and

- publication of the Generic Act in school organs/newsletters, and provision of bulletin board display for leaflets, posters, relative to the use of generics.

3. In addition to the existing rules on the procurement of drugs and medicines for use of school health personnel in health services, school administrators are requested to procure drugs and medicines on the basis of their generic use. All documents relating to procurement and disbursement, such as RIV's, budget documents, purchase orders, vouchers and others, shall specify drug product items in their generic names. This shall cover both regular as well as emergency procurement, bidding as well as canvass.

4. All school physicians are enjoined to adopt and practice generic dispensing.

5. Close monitoring of the full implementation of this Act shall be done thru the Health and Nutrition Center, this Department.

6. Inclosed is the copy of the full text of Republic Act 6675 and the Implementation Guidelines for Department of Health Compliance with RA 6675 (Generics Act of 1988) for the information and guidance of all.

7. It is requested that this order be disseminated immediately.

(SGD.) LOURDES R. QUISUMBING
Secretary

Incls.:
As stated

Reference:
N o n e

Allotment: 1-2-3-d--(M.O. 1-87)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

BUREAUS & OFFICES
CAMPAIGN
HEALTH EDUCATION
LEGISLATION
OFFICIALS
RULES & REGULATIONS

(Inclosure to DECS Order No. 21, s. 1989)

S. No. 453
H. No. 10900

Republic of the Philippines
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Metro Manila

Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of July, nineteen hundred and eighty-eight

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[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6675]

AN ACT TO PROMOTE, REQUIRE AND ENSURE THE PRODUCTION OF AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY, DISTRIBUTION, USE AND ACCEPTANCE OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES IDENTIFIED BY THEIR GENERIC NAMES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title.- This Act shall be known as the Generics Act of 1988.

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.- It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

To promote, encourage and require the use of generic terminology in the importation, manufacture, distribution, marketing, advertising and promotion, prescription and dispensing of drugs;

To ensure the adequate supply of drugs with generic names at the lowest possible cost and endeavor to make them available for free to indigent patients;

To encourage the extensive use of drugs with generic names through a rational system of procurement and distribution;

To emphasize the scientific basis for the use of drugs, in order that health professionals may become more aware and cognizant of their therapeutic effectiveness; and

To promote drug safety by minimizing duplication in medications and/or use of drugs with potentially adverse drug interactions.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - The following terms are herein defined for purposes of this Act.

(1) "Generic Name or Generic Terminology" is the identification of drugs and medicines by their scientifically and internationally recognized active ingredients or by their official generic name as determined by the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Department of Health.

(2) "Active Ingredient" is the chemical component responsible for the claimed therapeutic effect of the pharmaceutical product.

(4) "Drug Product" is the finished product form that contains the active ingredients, generally but not necessarily in association with inactive ingredients.

(5) "Drug Establishment" is any organization or company involved in the manufacture, importation, repacking and/or distribution of drugs or medicines.

(6) "Drug Outlets" means drugstores, pharmacies, and any other business establishments which sell drugs or medicines.

(7) "Essential Drugs List" or "National Drug Formulary" is a list of drugs prepared and periodically updated by the Department of Health on the basis of health conditions obtaining in the Philippines as well as on internationally accepted criteria. It shall consist of a core list and a complementary list.

(8) "Core List" is a list of drugs that meets the health care needs of the majority of the population.

(9) "Complimentary List" is a list of alternative drugs used when there is no response to the core essential drug or when there is a hypersensitivity reaction to the core essential drug or when, for one reason or another, the core essential drug cannot be given.

(10) "Brand Name" is the proprietary name given by the manufacturer to distinguish its product from those of competitors.

(11) "Generic Drugs" are drugs not covered by patent protection and which are labeled solely by their international non-proprietary or generic name.

SEC. 4. The Use of Generic Terminology for Essential Drugs and Promotional Incentives. -(a) In the promotion of the generic names for pharmaceutical products, special consideration shall be given to drugs and medicines which are included in the Essential Drugs List to be prepared within one hundred eighty (180) days from approval of this Act and updated quarterly by the Department of Health on the basis of health conditions obtaining in the Philippines as well as on internationally accepted criteria.

(b) The exclusive use of generic terminology in the manufacture, marketing and sales of drugs and medicines, particularly those in the Essential Drugs List, shall be promoted through such a system of incentives as the Board of Investments jointly with the Department of Health and other government agencies as may be authorized by law, shall promulgate in accordance with existing laws, within one hundred eighty (180) days after approval of this Act.

SEC. 5. Posting and Publication. - The Department of Health shall publish annually in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines the generic names, and the corresponding brand names under which they are marketed, of all drugs and medicines available in the Philippines.

SEC. 6. Who Shall Use Generic Terminology. - (a) All government health agencies and their personnel as well as other government agencies shall use generic terminology or generic names in all transactions related to purchasing, prescribing, dispensing and administering of drugs and medicines.

(b) All medical, dental and veterinary practitioners, including

(c) Any organization or company involved in the manufacture, importation, repacking, marketing and/or distribution of drugs and medicines shall indicate prominently the generic name of the product. In the case of brand name products, the generic name shall appear prominently and immediately above the brand name in all product labels as well as in advertising and other promotional materials.

(d) Drug outlets, including drugstores, hospital and non-hospital pharmacies and non-traditional outlets such as supermarkets and stores, shall inform any buyer about any and all other drug products having the same generic name, together with their corresponding prices so that the buyer may adequately exercise his option. Within one (1) year after approval of this Act, the drug outlets referred to herein, shall post in conspicuous places in their establishments, a list of drug products with the same generic name and their corresponding prices.

SEC. 7. Provision on Quality, Manufacturer's Identity and Responsibility. - In order to assure responsibility for drug quality in all instances, the label of all drugs and medicines shall have the following: name and country of manufacture, dates of manufacture and expiration. The quality of such generically labeled drugs and medicines shall be duly certified by the Department of Health.

SEC. 8. Required Production. - Subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Health, every drug manufacturing company operating in the Philippines shall be required to produce, distribute and make available to the general public the medicine it produces, in the form of generic drugs.

SEC. 9. Rules and Regulations. - The implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Department of Health. Rules and regulations with penal sanctions shall be promulgated within one hundred eighty (180) days after approval of this Act and shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 10. Authority to Import. - Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, extendible by the President for another two (2) years and during periods of critical shortage and absolute necessity, the Department of Health is hereby authorized to import raw materials of which there is a shortage for the use of Filipino-owned or controlled drug establishments to be marketed and sold exclusively under generic nomenclature. The President may authorize the importation of raw materials tax and duty-free. The Secretary of Health shall ensure that the imported raw materials are allocated fairly and efficiently among Filipino-owned or controlled drug establishments. He shall submit to the Office of the President and to Congress a quarterly report on the quantity, kind and value of the raw materials imported.

SEC. 11. Education Drive. - The Department of Health jointly with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Philippine Information Agency and the Department of Local Government shall conduct a continuous information campaign for the public and a continuing education and training for the medical and allied medical professions on drugs with generic names as an alternative of equal efficacy to the more expensive brand name drugs. Such educational campaign shall include information on the illnesses or symptoms which each generically named drug is supposed to cure or alleviate, as well as its contraindications. The Department of Health with the assistance of the Department of Local Government and the Philippine Information Agency shall monitor the

SEC. 12. Penalty.- A) Any person who shall violate Section 6(a) or 6(b) of this Act shall suffer the penalty graduated hereunder, viz:

(a) for the first conviction, he shall suffer the penalty of reprimand which shall be officially recorded in the appropriate books of the Professional Regulation Commission.

(b) for the second conviction, the penalty of fine in the amount of not less than two thousand pesos (₱2,000.00) but not exceeding five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

(c) for the third conviction, the penalty of fine in the amount of not less than five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00) but not exceeding ten thousand pesos (₱10,000.00) and suspension of his license to practice his profession for thirty(30) days at the discretion of the court.

(d) for the fourth and subsequent convictions, the penalty of fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (₱10,000.00) and suspension of his license to practice his profession for one year or longer at the discretion of the court.

(B) Any juridical person who violates Section 6(c), 6(d), 7 or 8 shall suffer the penalty of a fine of not less than five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00) nor more than ten thousand pesos (₱10,000.00) and suspension or revocation of license to operate such drug establishment or drug outlet at the discretion of the Court. Provided, That its officers directly responsible for the violation shall suffer the penalty of fine and suspension or revocation of license to practice profession, if applicable, and by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Court: and Provided further, That if the guilty party is an alien, he shall be ipso facto deported after service of sentence without need of further proceedings.

(C) The Secretary of Health shall have the authority to impose administrative sanctions such as suspension or cancellation of license to operate or recommend suspension of license to practice profession to the Professional Regulation Commission as the case may be for the violation of this Act.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder or any provision hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.- The provisions of any law, executive order, presidential decree or other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazetter or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved:

(SGD.) RAMON V. MITRA
Speaker of the House of Representatives

(SGD.) JOVITO R. SALONGA
President of the Senate

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 453 and House Bill No. 10900 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on August 25, 1988 and August 31, 1988 respectively.

(SGD.) QUIRINO D. ABAD SANTOS, JR.
Secretary of the House of Representatives

(SGD.) EDWIN P. ACOBA
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: September 13, 1988

(SGD.) CORAZON C. AQUINO
President of the Philippines

A true copy

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
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November 16, 1988

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 57 series 1988

S U B J E C T : Implementing Guidelines For Department of Health Compliance with Republic Act 6675 (Generics Act of 1988)

1. Title: This order shall be known as "Implementing Guidelines for the Department of Health Compliance with Republic Act 6675 (Generics Act of 1988)."

2. Authority: This order is issued to implement R.A. 6675 guided by pertinent provisions of R. A. 3720 and related laws as well as E.O. 119 (Reorganization Act of the Ministry of Health).

3. Purpose: This order provides guidelines and instructions for the Department of Health to comply with R. A. 6675 and implement its provisions.

4. Scope: This order applies to all agencies and entities within the supervision of the Secretary of Health that perform the functions of procuring, prescribing, dispensing and administering drugs and medicines as well as promoting, regulating and practicing the use of generic names of drugs. While R.A. 6675 covers agencies and entities other than the Department of Health, this order does not apply to such agencies and entities. Separate issuances shall expressly provide for guidelines applicable to non-DOH agencies and entities.

5. Specific Roles of the DOH in Implementing R.A. 6675

This order provides guidelines and instructions for the proper, orderly and efficient performance of the DOH of its various roles under R.A. 6675.

5.1 DOH is the agency tasked with the promulgation of rules and regulations to implement R.A. 6675 [Sec. 9 and 12 (c)].

5.2 DOH is also one of the key government agencies that shall have to comply with the use of generic terminology or generic names in all transactions related to purchasing, prescribing, dispensing and administering of drugs and medicines [Sec. 6 (a)].

5.3 DOH is also one of the key government agencies mandated to promote use of generic terminology through public information and continuing education of health professionals (Sec. 11).

5.4 DOH is also one of the key government agencies mandated to insure that drugs are generically labelled (Sec.7) and that generic drugs production are encouraged and promoted (Sec. 8 and 10).

This order specifically addresses how DOH shall perform the role defined in 5.2 above, but shall also outline how the performance of the other roles shall be guided.

6. Guidance of Implementation

The task of guiding the implementation of R.A. 6675 shall be undertaken principally by the Secretary of Health with the staff assistance of the National Drug Policy Implementation Team created in A.O. No. 46, series 1988, which is headed by the Assistant Secretary for Standards and Regulations. The various units in this staff shall formulate draft recommendations for policy guidelines and operational instructions on all matters regarding the implementation of R.A. 6675. These drafts shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee for National Field Operations. All issuances shall be approved by the Secretary and disseminated prior to effectivity.

In the drafting of recommendations, the following guidelines shall be observed:

6.1 Recommendations should be clear, reasonably implementable, consistent with legal provisions and facilitates the achievement of policy goals.

6.2 Suggestions, comments and similar inputs from affected as well as interested parties should be solicited and considered.

6.3 Discussions in various committees, conferences and meetings should be maximized.

6.4 Formulation of guidelines should proceed promptly, observe stated deadlines and schedules, and decisively disposed.

7. Implementation by Field Units of DOH

To carry out the rules and regulations in implementing R.A. 6675, the following officials are responsible:

7.1 The Regional Health Directors for all agencies under their supervision in the regions

7.2 The Provincial Health Officers for all agencies under

their supervision in the provinces

7.3 The Chiefs of District Hospitals in their respective hospitals and catchment areas

7.4 The City Health Officers for units 1 under their supervision in the cities

7.5 The Chiefs of national medical centers, special research centers and hospitals, regional medical centers and regional hospitals and sanitaria in their respective institutions

8. Duties and Functions of Responsible Officials

The above mentioned officials responsible for the implementation of R.A. 6675 in their respective areas of jurisdiction shall perform the following duties and functions:

8.1 Issue the necessary office orders and instructions to carry out R.A. 6675 based on implementation guidelines.

8.2 Organize and mobilize their offices and institutions to assure compliance by DOH personnel

8.3 Establish and activate mechanisms for promoting compliance , eliminating barriers or difficulties to such compliance and initiating supportive activties

8.4 Manage their organizations towards active and effective observance of laws, rules and regulations

8.5 Recommend proposals, modifications to existing instructions and otherwise give feedback on the implementation

8.6 Assume other functions and responsibilities that may be required in related issuances

9. Therapeutic Committees

At all DOH field agencies, a therapeutic committee shall be organized to assist the head of agency in performing his tasks under this order.

9.1 Requirement: Therapeutic Committees shall be organized at the Regional Health Offices, Provincial Health Offices, District Health Offices, City Health offices, special hospitals, national medical centers, regional medical centers, regional hospitals and sanitaria. At the Regional Health Office, the Technical Committe for Drugs and Medicine created under A.O. No. 28, series 1987 shall be dissolved and its functions absorbed by the Regional Therapeutic Committee.

9.2 Functions: In support of the agency head, Therapeutic Committees shall have the following functions in support of the agency head:

9.2.1 Based on the DOH Drug Formulary (For Hospitals and RHU's), regularly maintain a list, specified in generic terminology, of the drugs that the agency will keep on stock, use, buy or prescribe.

The list shall be limited to those items in the DOH formulary. Any new item outside the formulary should be recommended to the National Drug Committee for inclusion in the DOH formulary before the agency can include such item in its own list. The list shall be regularly updated and circulated to procurement and supply units, pharmacies and medical staff of the agency. The Therapeutic Committee shall be responsible for clarifying any technical issue regarding use of generic terminology.

9.2.2 Based on the DOH Formulary, recommend drug selection, utilization, procurement and stocking policies. Such policies may include establishing allocation criteria in use of resources for different generic items of drugs; resolving problems regarding drug availability and quality; disseminating reliable drug information; proposing measures to facilitate generic prescribing and dispensing; insuring proper and equitable distribution of drug supplies within the agency; identifying other similar initiatives.

9.2.3 Evaluate and recommend appropriate action on:

a) requests for inclusion or exclusion of any drug product in the DOH formulary as well as in the agency drug list
b) reports of adverse drug reactions and other incidents related to safety, efficacy or quality of drugs
c) use of agency resources for drug products

On the last matter, the Therapeutic Committees shall be empowered to require budget and finance units to provide data showing how much of the agency resources are allocated to drugs and medicines and other information on prices, products and suppliers.

9.2.4 Identify and define information, education or training needs of the agency related to the implementation of R.A. 6675, the national drug policy, pharmacological science, and rational drug use. In this regard, the Therapeutic Committee is instructed to specify their agency needs for technical information and make proposals for raising the level of knowledge, altitudes and skills needed for effective implementation of RA 6675.

9.2.5 Plan an orderly, systematic and thorough process of institutionalizing rational drug use. Such plans should have immediate, medium and long term dimensions. The plans should target 100% adoption of generic terminology in procurement,

prescribing and dispensing within DOH agencies within the shortest possible time. Subsequently, the plans should identify specific problems, obstacles and difficulties to widespread use of generic terminology in the community and propose appropriate solutions. Finally, the plans should seek to promote rational use of drugs.

9.3 Composition

9.3.1 Therapeutic Committees shall have at least 5 members except at District Hospitals which may have at least 3 members.

9.3.2 The members shall be designated by the head of the agency and shall have a mix of the following professionals: physician, pharmacist and nurse. A dentist may be included as a non-voting member to be consulted on drugs and medicine affecting dental services.

9.3.3 The head of agency shall not be a member.

9.3.4 The members shall elect their chairman.

9.3.5 The NDP compliance officer mentioned below shall be a non-voting member who can attend committee deliberations.

9.3.6 Regional Directors are instructed to contract pharmacologists coming from medical schools to serve as consultants to the Regional Therapeutic Committee or the Therapeutic Committee of the Regional Medical Centers.

9.4 Organization and Reporting: Heads of agencies shall designate and organize their respective therapeutic committees no later than December 30, 1988. All heads of agencies shall report the composition of their committees on the first staff meeting in 1989.

10. NDP Compliance Officer

At all regional offices and all special hospitals, the head of agency shall designate an NDP compliance officer.

10.1 Functions: The NDP Compliance Officer is tasked with gathering, analyzing and reporting the data on that agency's compliance with all issued instructions such as:

(a) organization and activation of therapeutic committees.
(b) issuances of related internal orders and instructions.
(c) reports of specific failures and successes
(d) report of overall progress or setbacks.

10.2 Qualifications: The NDP Compliance Officer shall be a DOH employee in a position to understand the technical and administrative aspects for compliance with RA 6675.

10.3 Reporting: Regional Directors and Chiefs of Special Hospitals shall report their designated NDP compliance officer no later than December 30, 1988.

11. Procurement of Drugs and Medicines

11.1 In addition to existing regulations on procurement, drugs and medicines shall be procured on the basis of their generic use. For this prupose, all heads of agencies that procure drugs and medicines from regular budget, local aid or trust funds shall specify all drug and medicine items in their generic names. All documents relating to procurement and disbursement, such as RIV's, bid documents, purchase orders, vouchers and others, shall specify drug product items in their generic names. This shall cover both regular as well as emergency procurement, bidding as well as canvass.

11.2 Any issue regarding generic terminology shall be resolved by the Therapeutic Committee. Any issue that it cannot decide shall be referred to the National Drug Committee. Upon referral, the Therapeutic Committee can adopt a temporary decision until action by the NDC.

11.3 All DOH agencies shall adopt generic specifications in all procurement of drugs and medicines effective March 1, 1989.

11.4 Procurement made on the basis of generic specifications may lead to purchase of drug products that are also identified by brand names provided price and availability considerations make it unavoidable. In such cases, products for a generic use that are also identified by brand names may be kept on stock provided that its identification and use remain exclusively on the basis of generic specification.

12. Prescribing and Ordering

12.1 All prescriptions and orders for drugs and medicines in DOH facilities shall be specified in generic terminology. In all written orders, the generic name of the drug's active ingredient shall be stated. While initially brand names may also be added, eventually all orders shall use generic names exlusively.

12.2 Each DOH agency shall set a date no later than March 1, 1989 for the effectivity of mandatory generic prescribing in that agency. Prior to such date, generic prescribing shall be introduced, promoted and encouraged. Information shall be provided to all concerned so that generic prescribing can be facilitated. On the date for starting mandatory generic prescribing, there should be launching activities to bring the decision to the attention of professionals and the public.

12.3 All DOH agencies shall report not later than December 30, 1988 the date mandatory generic prescribing will start in the agency.

13. Dispensing and Administering

13.1 All persons and units that dispense drugs and medicines in DOH agencies (pharmacies, clinics, other service outlets) shall adopt and practice generic dispensing) i.e. filling doctor's prescriptions and orders on the basis of the specified generic name of the active ingredient, dose level, dosage form and delivery mode. If no drug preparation is available to comply with what was prescribed, the prescribing physician shall be duly informed so that the prescription can be changed to one that can be filled.

13.2 Allied medical and nursing staff in hospitals, health centers and health stations shall use generic terminology in patient charts and all drugs and medical records.

13.3 Upon effectivity of mandatory generic prescribing, mandatory generic dispensing shall also take effect.

13.4 All agencies shall duly inform all patients when generically dispensing to avoid misunderstanding.

13.5 Branded products may be dispensed and used provided such is based on providing the same generic active ingredient as well as same dose, form and delivery mode specified in the prescription.

14. Public Information

14.1 All heads of agencies shall take the necessary and sufficient steps to inform the public about measures to implement R.A. 6675 and the rationale for these measures.

14.2 Whenever public complaints arise, the heads of agencies shall take action to resolve such complaints within the means available while observing rules and regulations.

14.3 The Public Information and Health Education Service at the central office shall produce and disseminate informational materials necessary to inform the public on these matters. All agencies are authorized to reproduce these materials for public distribution. All agencies are encouraged to translate, summarize, excerpt or adapt materials from PIHES aside from developing their own materials. Copies of all informational materials developed by field agencies on their own shall be sent to PIHES for information.

15. Professional Promotion

15.1 Heads of agencies, assisted by their respective Therapeutic Committees, shall plan and undertake promotional activities among DOH personnel,

particularly physicians and nurses. These activities should a) clarify the provisions of the law and the implementing regulations; b) explain the reasons for generic names in drug use; c) answer the most common misinformation, apprehensions and complaints.

15.2 The central staff for NDP implementation shall organize and deploy well qualified resourse persons for lectures and seminars on NDP implementation. Agencies may access these for their promotional activities through the office of the Assistant Secretary for Standards and Regulations.

15.3 PIHES shall procure and produce the necessary technical references for the use of Therapeutic Committees. These shall be distributed to all committees in due course.

16. Central Office Support and Monitoring

16.1 All communications regarding the implementation of this order shall be coursed to the office of the Assistant Secretary for Standards and Regulations. On the basis of the progress or problems, adequate guidance, support or assistance shall be extended. The principal responsibility, however, remains with the heads of agency and their superiors in the chain of command of DOH.

16.2 NDP Compliance officers shall identify areas, both geographic and functional, wher technical weaknesses are noted. In these cases, recommendations regarding what support is needed are expected. A mechanism for sharing technical resources in pharmacy and pharmacology shall be established by the Assistant Secretary for Standards and Regulations.

17. Violations

Repeated or substantial violations of this order shall be regarded as violations of administrative discipline under Presidential Decree 807. Subject personnel shall be liable to administrative action in addition to penalties provided for by R.A. 6675.

18. Effectivity. These rules and regulations shall take effect after its publication in the official gazette, or in a newspapers of general circulation and shall supersede all issuances inconsistent thereof.

ALFREDO R.A. BENGZON, M.D.
Secretary of Health