



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

29 April 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020- 0195

FOR: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD) AND BUREAU AND SERVICE DIRECTORS; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM); EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, AND MEDICAL DIRECTORS OF OTHER TYPES OF HEALTH FACILITIES; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Reiteration of the Price Freeze of Personal Protective Equipment and Guidelines for its Rational Use During COVID-19 Pandemic

The current COVID-19 pandemic, created an increase demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) by hospitals and other health facilities, in compliance with Infection Prevention and Control protocols. In line with this, reports on excessive mark up of prices of PPEs being charged to patients, both COVID-19- and non-COVID-19 cases, were received by the Department of Health. The exorbitant fees of PPEs have caused additional burden to the public, reducing their access to essential health care services.

Thus, to provide guidance and to remind the hospitals and other health facilities, both government and private, on the rational use of PPEs and its maximum allowable prices, the following policies are hereby reiterated:


1. DM No. 2020-0176: Interim Guidelines on the Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Coronavirus Disease 2019
2. DC No. 2020-0186: Reiteration of the Amendment of the Updated List for the Price Freeze of Essential Emergency Medicines and Medical Devices due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Health Event

The list for Price Freeze of Essential Emergency Medicines and Medical Devices may continuously be updated and amended, as deemed necessary.

Moreover, patients, especially the poor and marginalized, shall not bear the charges for donated PPEs.

For strict implementation.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


MARIA ROSARIO SINGH-VERGEIRE, MD, MPH, CESO IV
OIC - Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team