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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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03 January 2025

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 10-2025

TO : ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS
ALL DIRECTORS AND DIVISION CHIEFS
ALL DISTRICT AND SUB-PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : E-MAIL DATED 23 DECEMBER 2024 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) WITH ATTACHED DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM (DM) NO. 2024-0433 RE: CALL FOR INPUTS ON THE UPDATING OF GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH-RELATED DISCOUNTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER (AO) NO. 2024-0017 RE: PURCHASE BOOKLETS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE 20% SENIOR CITIZENS' DISCOUNTS ON MEDICINES, AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) ADVISORY NO. 2024-1619 RE: FALSIFIED/COUNTERFEIT HEPATITIS B VACCINE (RECOMBINANT DNA) (GENVAC-B)

This has reference to the e-mail dated 23 December 2024 from Nikko T. Lim, Information Officer III, AC Secretariat, DOH, with attached DM No. 2024-0433 dated 11 November 2024 signed by Glenn Mathew G. Baggao, MD, MHA, MSN, FPSMS, FPCHA, Undersecretary of Health, Public Health Services Cluster, DOH, AO No. 2024-0017 dated 23 December 2024 signed by Teodoro J. Herbosa, MD, Secretary of Health, DOH, and FDA Advisory No. 2024-1619 dated 21 November 2024 signed by Dr. Samuel A. Zacate, Director General, FDA, DOH.

As stated in the e-mail, this is to provide some important updates on senior citizen discounts and counterfeit medicines for action and information:

1. For Action
 - a. **Call for Inputs on the Updating of Guidelines for Health-related Discounts for Senior Citizens**

The DM No. 2024-0433, issued through the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), invites position papers and inputs for the updating of AO No. 2012-0007, which pertains to guidelines for health-related discounts for senior citizens and its amendments.



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2. For Information

a. **Purchase Booklets No Longer Required for the 20% Senior Citizens' Discount on Medicines**

Per AO No. 2024-0017, issued 23 December 2024, senior citizens are no longer required to present purchase booklets to avail of the 20% discount on medicines. This measure aligns with the Department's commitment to a human-centered approach in its policies and upholds the provisions of Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010".

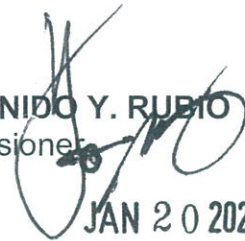
b. **Falsified/Counterfeit Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) (Genvac-B)**

The FDA Advisory No. 2024-1619 has reported the detection of a falsified Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) (Genvac-B) in the Philippine market.

For records purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof.

For information.

BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner



JAN 20 2025

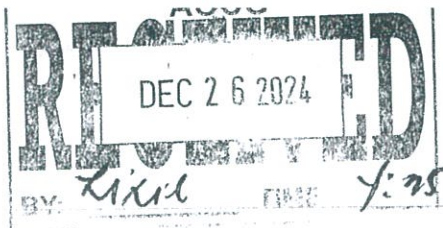


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Outlook



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[For Action and Information] Senior Citizen Discounts and Counterfeit Medicines

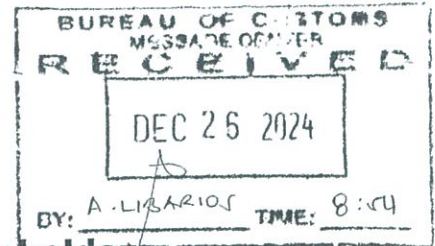
From Policy, Program Development and Research Unit Pharmaceutical Division <ppdru@doh.gov.ph>

Date Mon 12/23/2024 3:17 PM

Cc Fides Maria Aileen Buenafe <fmavbuenafe@doh.gov.ph>; Johanna Mallari <jbmallari@doh.gov.ph>; Nikko Lim <ntlml@doh.gov.ph>

3 attachments (5 MB)

dm2024-0433.pdf; ao2024-0017.pdf; FDA Advisory No. 2024-1619.pdf;



Dear **Advisory Council Members** and **Relevant Stakeholders**,

Good day. This is to provide some important updates on senior citizen discounts and counterfeit medicines for your action and information:

1. For Action

a. Call for Inputs on the Updating of Guidelines for Health-related Discounts for Senior Citizens

The Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2024-0433, issued through the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), invites position papers and inputs for the updating of Administrative Order (AO) No. 2012-0007, which pertains to guidelines for health-related discounts for senior citizens and its amendments.

For detailed information, please refer to the attached DM. Submissions should be sent to dpcbncdd@doh.gov.ph **no later than 8 January 2025 (Wednesday)**. Kindly disregard the stated deadline in the issuance. For queries or concerns, you may contact Dr. Gabriele Domingo of the Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Division via telephone at 8651-7800, local 2977, or email ehsp@doh.gov.ph.

2. For Information

a. Purchase Booklets No Longer Required for the 20% Senior Citizens' Discount on Medicines

Per Administrative Order (AO) No. 2024-0017, issued today, 23 December 2024, senior citizens are no longer required to present purchase booklets to avail of the 20% discount on medicines. This measure aligns with the Department's commitment to a human-centered approach in its policies and upholds the provisions of Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010". For further details, please refer to the attached AO.

b. Falsified/Counterfeit Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) (Genvac-B)

The FDA Advisory No. 2024-1619 has reported the detection of a falsified Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) (Genvac-B) in the Philippine market. For more information, please refer to the attached FDA advisory or visit the following link: <https://www.fda.gov.ph/fda-advisory-no-2024-1619-public-health-warning-on-falsified-counterfeit-hepatitis-b-vaccine-recombinant-dna-genvac-b-notified-by-the-genuine-product-manufacturer-to-the-world-health-organizati/>

We kindly request that you disseminate this information to your colleagues and networks as appropriate. For any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the PD—Policy, Program Development, and Research Unit through email at ppdru@doh.gov.ph or through telephone number at 8651-7800, local 8102.

Thank you, and we wish you a joyful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Nikko T. Lim

Information Officer III
AC Secretariat

Policy, Program Development and Research Unit
Pharmaceutical Division, Public Health Services Cluster

a: Department of Health | Philippine Blood Center, Lung
Center Compound, Diliman, Quezon City
e: ppdru@doh.gov.ph
t: 8651-7800 loc. 8102 / 8875-7734 loc. 261

For: Fides Maria Aileen V. Buenafe, MD
Chief, Pharmaceutical Division



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of the Secretary



November 11, 2024

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
No. 2024- 0433

FOR : MINISTER OF HEALTH OF BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM), ALL CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD) DIRECTORS, CHIEFS OF SPECIALTY CENTERS FOR GERIATRIC CARE, AND OTHER CONCERNED OFFICIALS

SUBJECT : Call for Inputs on the Updating of Administrative Order (AO) No. 2012-0007 or the Guidelines for Health-related Discounts for Senior Citizens and its Amendments

The Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB) is conducting a review of the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2012-0007 entitled "Guidelines on the Grant of Twenty Percent (20%) Discount to Senior Citizens on Health-Related Goods and Services and for Other Purposes" and its subsequent amendments to improve the accessibility to essential geriatric health services and medicines. This update aims to ensure that the guidelines remain relevant, responsive, and aligned with current healthcare needs for the elderly population, while addressing identified challenges and enhancing service accessibility.

The Bureau invites position papers and inputs from CHDs, MOH-BARMM, and specialty centers involved in geriatric care. Specifically, the DPCB requests inputs on the following:

1. Points for clarification on any section within DOH AO 2012-0007 and its amendments that may impact the interpretation or application of guidelines.
2. Recommendations for updates or modifications to address emerging needs based on service demand and practical experience.
3. Suggestions for resolving common issues encountered in implementing the discounts, particularly those related to access and eligibility verification.
4. Position and recommendations on the potential removal of the purchase booklet requirement and its implications on service delivery and regulation.

Submissions should be sent to dpcbncdd@doh.gov.ph no later than **December 16, 2024**. Please note that all submitted inputs and recommendations will be subject to thorough evaluation and may involve further consultations to ensure alignment with our shared goals. These contributions will play a crucial role in guiding revisions that strengthen policy support for the geriatric population and enhance service delivery.

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Please see the attached copy of AO 2012-0007 and 2012-0007-A for reference. For any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Gabriele Domingo of the Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Division at 8651-7800, local 2977, or ehsp@doh.gov.ph.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

~~GLENN MATHEW G. BAGGAO, MD, MHA, MSN, FPSMS, FPCHA~~
Undersecretary of Health
Public Health Services Cluster

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of the Secretary



BAGONG PILIPINAS

DEC 23 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERNo. 2024 - 0017

SUBJECT: Purchase Booklets No Longer Required for the 20% Senior Citizens' Discount on Medicines, in Compliance with Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as "The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010"

Department of Health (DOH) issued Administrative Order (AO) No. 2010-0032 or the "Guidelines and Mechanisms to Implement the Provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 9994, otherwise known as 'The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010' on the Sale of Medicines and the Sharing of the 20% Senior Citizen's Discount" and AO No. 2012-0007 or the "Guidelines on the Grant of Twenty Percent (20%) Discount to Senior Citizens on Health Related Goods and Services and for Other Purposes" to guide the implementation of the 20% Senior Citizens' discount on medicines, medical equipment and other health-related provisions.

The Department recognizes that requiring senior citizens to present purchase booklets during every transaction to avail the 20% discount in the purchase of medicines results in undue burden and difficulties. There is a need to realign guidelines on implementing the 20% Senior Citizens' discount with statutory law, which does not require the use of a purchase booklet to avail the 20% discount on medicines. Therefore, consistent with RA No. 9994 and the Department's humanistic approach to its policies, the aforementioned issuances are hereby revised, to wit:

For AO No. 2010-0032:

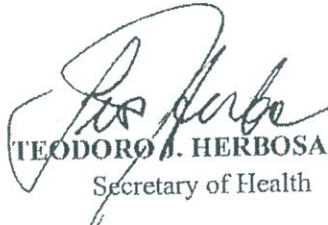
- 1) **Section V. III, a. 3.** which states "Purchase slip booklets shall be used to record the kind of OTC medicine purchased, how many, when and where it was purchased. Likewise, this will help the drugstores to monitor the last purchase made for a certain medicine." **is hereby deleted.**
- 2) **Section V. IV, a., 2nd paragraph** which states "For partial filling, the establishment's pharmacist will indicate the quantity partially filled in the purchase slip booklet and the unfilled balance on the prescription. The Senior Citizen shall retain the partially filled prescription and present the same later to complete the prescribed quantity." **is hereby modified to:** "For partial filling, the establishment's pharmacist will indicate the quantity partially filled and the unfilled balance on the prescription. The Senior Citizen shall retain the partially filled prescription and present the same later to complete the prescribed quantity."

For AO No. 2012-0007:

- 1) **Section V.6.5.** which states "Purchase of any medical devices granted the twenty percent (20%) discount and VAT exemption shall be recorded in the Purchase Booklet for control and monitoring." **is hereby deleted.**
- 2) **Section VI.3.3., 2nd paragraph** which states "For partial filling, the establishment's pharmacist will indicate the quantity partially filled in the purchase slip booklet and the unfilled balance on the prescription. The Senior Citizen shall retain the partially filled prescription and present the same later to complete the prescribed quantity." **is hereby modified to:** "For partial filling, the establishment's pharmacist will indicate the quantity partially filled and the unfilled balance on the prescription. The Senior Citizen shall retain the partially filled prescription and present the same later to complete the prescribed quantity."
- 3) **Section VI.3.7.** which states "Drugstores shall fill-up the Purchase Booklet. The Purchase Slip Booklets shall be used to record the kind of OTC medicine purchased, how many, when and where it was purchased. Likewise, this shall help the drugstores to monitor the last purchase made for a certain medicine." **is hereby deleted.**
- 4) **Section VI.6.1.c.** which states "Purchase booklets shall be used to record the kind of OTC medicine purchased, how many, when and where it was purchased. Likewise, this shall help the drugstores to monitor the last purchase made for a certain medicine." **is hereby deleted.**

All other provisions of AO No. 2010-0032 and AO No. 2012-0007 that are not affected by this issuance shall remain in effect.

This Order shall take effect immediately.


TEODORO A. HERBOSA, MD
Secretary of Health



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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FDA ADVISORY
No. 20241619

21 NOV 2024

TO: ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SUBJECT: Public Health Warning on Falsified/Counterfeit Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) (Genvac-B) notified by the Genuine Product Manufacturer to the World Health Organization (WHO)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notifies the public on a falsified Hepatitis B vaccine with brand name "Genvac-B" which was detected in the Philippines in November 2024:


PRODUCT NAME	Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) 20 mcg/mL [Genvac-B]
STATED MANUFACTURER	Scrum Institute of India LTD
BATCH	0343Q012B
PACKAGING LANGUAGE	English
IDENTIFIED IN	Philippines
AVAILABLE PHOTO	

Figure 1. Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) 20 mcg/mL [Genvac-B] detected in the Philippines



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The FDA strongly advises the public to be vigilant on the circulation of this falsified vaccine since this poses a particular risk to patients as this is administered intramuscularly, and its sterility, quality, and safety are unknown. A falsified/counterfeit vaccine deliberately or fraudulently misrepresents its identity, composition, or source and its safety and quality are unknown. The genuine manufacturer, Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., India, confirmed that the vaccine and the variable data (serial number, print appearance) referenced are falsified.

This is to emphasize that the authentic Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant DNA) 20 meg/ml. [Genvae-B] is registered with FDA with Registration No. BR-574 and used in the prevention of Hepatitis B infection.

Therefore, all Local Government Units (LGU) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), after the issuance of this advisory, are requested to ensure that this falsified/counterfeit vaccine is not sold or not administered to patients in their localities or areas of jurisdiction.

For more information and inquiries, please e-mail us at cdrr.productverification@fda.gov.ph. To report unauthorized sale or distribution of the abovementioned, kindly e-mail us via creport@fda.gov.ph and/or coordinate with the Marketing Authorization Holder (MAH), Genpharm, Inc. through their landline number (02)7758-0542 or email them at genpharm.inc@gmail.com for product authentication. You may also call the Center for Drug Regulation and Research at telephone number (02) 8809-5596.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is highly requested.

Digitally signed by
Zacate Samuel
Arellano
Date: 2024.11.21
12:12:23 +0800

DR. SAMUEL A. ZACATE
Director General



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