

**[ DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2014-0001,  
January 08, 2014 ]**

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE PRICE FREEZE OF  
MEDICINES DURING DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES**

**I. Background and Rationale**

Essential medicines have been identified as a basic necessity especially in times of national disasters and emergencies that put health and lives of Filipinos at risk because of unfavorable conditions that cause or aggravate disease with potential to lead to massive deaths and epidemics.

As contained in Republic Act (RA) No. 7581, *"An Act Providing protection to Consumers by Stabilizing the Prices of Basic necessities and Prime Commodities and by Prescribing Measures Against Undue Price Increases During Emergency Situations and Like Occasions"*, it is the policy of the State to ensure the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at all times.

As the implementing agency with reference to essential medicines, the Department of Health (DOH) is mandated to monitor and regulate the prices of essential medicines and to ensure that consumers are adequately protected against profiteering, hoarding, cartels and the like that compromise access to essential medicines.

During a state of declared disaster or calamity, as stated in Section 6 of RA 7581 unless otherwise proclaimed by the President, prices of basic necessities shall be put under Automatic Price Control and frozen at the prevailing price level.

Unless sooner lifted by the President, it shall remain in effect for the duration of the situation but not for more than sixty (60) days. If the prevailing price of any basic necessity is excessive or unreasonable, the President may impose a Mandated Price Ceiling (Section 7) upon the recommendation of the implementing agency or the Price Coordinating Council.

**II. Scope and Coverage**

This Order is issued to guide consumers, hospitals, private and public drug outlets, other healthcare facilities and other government entities on the ethical prices of medicines during states of national calamities and emergencies.

**III. Objectives**

This Order aims to attain the following objectives:

1. To provide general guidelines necessary for the implementation of the provisions under RA 7581 or the Price Act mandating the DOH to stabilize the