[DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 169, S. 2004, September 06, 2004]

IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF GENERIC NAMES OR GENERIC TERMINOLOGY IN ALL PRESCRIPTIONS AND ORDERS IN ALL DOH FACILITIES

I. Rationale

Republic Act (RA) No. 6675 also known as the Generics Act of 1988 provides that it is the policy of the State to encourage the extensive use of drugs with generic names through a rational system of procurement and distribution.

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.

RA No. 6675 further provides that 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.

Administrative Order No. 51 series of 1988 entitled, "*Implementing Guidelines for Department of Health Compliance with Republic Act 6675 (Generics Act of 1988)*", provides that all prescriptions and orders and medicines in Department of Health (DOH) facilities shall be specified in generic terminology and that all written orders the generic name of the active ingredient shall be stated. Also stated in the said issuance is that while brand names may also be added, eventually all orders shall use generic names exclusively.

With the premises cited and relative preference and acceptability to generic drugs, this Order is crafted to assure the exclusive use of generic names sans the brand name from hereon.

II. Objectives

This Order is crafted to ensure that the following objectives are attained:

1. To provide guidelines in implementing the mandatory use of generic names in all DOH facilities and without the corresponding brand names.

2. To sustain the institutionalisation of promoting generic names and

drugs by identifying the key personnel in the DOH and their corresponding roles and responsibilities.

3. To provide a system of monitoring compliance to generic prescription.

III. Applicability

This Order shall be applicable only to all DOH Facilities, which include Retained and Special Hospitals, Centers for Health Development, Service, Bureaus, Offices and Medical Centers, Sanitaria and all other units that are administratively and operationally under the control of the DOH.

IV. General Guidelines

1. All DOH facilities and their personnel shall only use generic names or terminology in all transactions related to procurement, prescribing, dispensing, and administering of drugs and medicines. This shall be inclusive of drugs, which are still covered with patent protection. The corresponding brand names of the drugs prescribed or ordered shall no longer be specified.

2. The Heads of the DOH facilities, i.e. Chiefs of Hospitals, Centers for Health Development Directors, and others, shall act as the Head National Drug Policy Compliance Officer of their respective units and shall assign subordinate officers within their unit to assist or support them to ensure compliance with this Order and shall promulgate the corresponding issuance to implement and disseminate this Order.

3. Non-compliance to this Order shall be elevated by the concerned Heads of DOH Facilities to the Office of the Undersecretary, Project Executive Officer, Pharmaceutical Management Unit and the corresponding sanctions shall be imposed in accordance with RA 6675 and other applicable existing laws, rules and regulations.

V. Specific Guidelines

A. Organizational Support Structure

1. The members and officers of the Therapeutics Committee of the Hospital or the Center for Health Development concerned as designated by their respective Heads of Unit/Office, in addition to their other roles and functions, shall serve as National Drug Policy Compliance Officers and shall provide staff work for routine and monitoring activities. They shall report directly to the Head of the National Drug Policy Compliance Officer at their office's level.

2. In the absence of a functional Therapeutics Committee, the Head of