



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

March 16, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2020 - 0151

**TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**


**SUBJECT: Off-label Use of Antivirals and Antimalarials for the Clinical Management of COVID-19**

The Department of Health is coordinating with the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) and Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Disease (PSMID), who are currently leading the efforts in drafting updated guidelines on management of COVID-19.

The proposed management protocol will entail off-label use of antiviral and antimalarial drugs that may have potential negative side effects. Therefore, such use must be (1) monitored closely by health authorities and hospital administrators, and (2) given with informed consent from the patients or legally authorised representative.

Until guidelines for the Philippines are released jointly by DOH, PCP and PSMID, healthcare providers shall continue implementing existing PSMID clinical practice guidelines.

Dissemination of the above information is requested.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
Secretary of Health

