



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

17 February 2016

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2016 - 0103

**FOR: ALL DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND REGIONAL OFFICES,
SECRETARY OF HEALTH DOH-ARMM; CHIEFS OF
MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA; AND
OTHERS CONCERNED**

SUBJECT: Clarification on NOREPINEPHRINE 1mg/mL (IV Infusion)

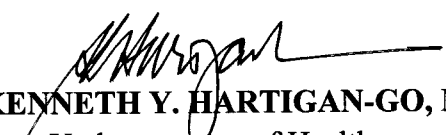
This is to inform everyone that Norepinephrine "sulfite free" 1mg/mL is considered similar to the currently listed Norepinephrine 1mg/mL (IV Infusion) in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF). Please note, however, that in the procurement document of the health facilities, only **NOREPINEPHRINE** should be indicated and shall not specify "sulfite free" so as not to limit the bidding to only one supplier. As per advice of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there is only one pharmaceutical company that is manufacturing a sulfite free preparation.

Although the FDA has released a Bureau Order in 1996 regarding the use of products with sodium metabisulfite, it was made clear that additional warning statements in their labels are required for consumer protection. Likewise, there has been no clear evidence on the occurrence of adverse events particularly with the use of norepinephrine "with sulfite."

Kindly inform all concerned officials in your areas of responsibility to be appropriately guided by the said information in their procurement activities. All are enjoined to ensure rational procurement, distribution and use of medicines in all government and private hospitals.

Your full cooperation in this endeavour is highly appreciated.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


KENNETH Y. HARTIGAN-GO, MD
Undersecretary of Health
Office for Health Regulations