



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

01 December 2017

**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**

Secretary

Department of Health

Dear **Secretary Duque**:

The Formulary Executive Council (FEC) respectfully recommends the **DISAPPROVAL** of the inclusion of **dexmedetomidine hydrochloride 100 mcg/mL, 2 mL vial** in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF). Based on the results of the evidence review, the pooled estimates of the parameters which measured the level of sedation, time to extubation and re-intubation between dexmedetomidine versus propofol and other benzodiazepines were **not** statistically significant. In terms of length of ICU stay and duration of mechanical ventilation, the findings were statistically significant but may not be clinically significant since the advantage of dexmedetomidine over its comparators is only less than two (2) days and less than 24 hours for the respective outcome measures.

Likewise, after careful appraisal and deliberation of the four (4) studies attached in the appeal documents of the proponent (i.e., National Kidney and Transplant Institute), a cost effectiveness analysis (CEA) conducted in Germany by Motsch et al., 2000 was noted. It was discussed that although the said CEA is a high quality study, the geographic transferability will be extremely difficult because of the large differences in life expectancy and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita between the Philippines and Germany. Further, the price of dexmedetomidine (Php 1854) is also more expensive compared with the drug price reference index (DPRI) of its currently listed comparators, i.e., midazolam (Php 104.16 – 147.19) and propofol (Php 117.14 – Php 1,356.03). Considering the new studies submitted, the Council agreed that these did not provide sufficient evidence to change their previous recommendation to **DISAPPROVE** the inclusion of dexmedetomidine in the PNF.

Please be informed that the above recommendation was posted on the website of the Pharmaceutical Division to accommodate any comment or appeal from the involved stakeholders within 30 days.

For your disposition, Sir.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,


For the Formulary Executive Council

  
**ATTY. FROILAN BAGABALDO**

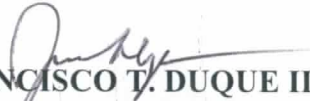
Chair

Formulary Executive Council

Recommending disapproval:

  
**ENRIQUE A. TAYAG, MD, PPSAE, FPSMID, CESO III**  
OIC – Assistant Secretary of Health  
Office for Policy and Health Systems

Official disapproval of the above medicine:

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