



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

25 April 2016

**JANETTE LORETO GARIN, MD, MBA-H**  
Secretary  
Department of Health

Dear **Secretary Garin**:

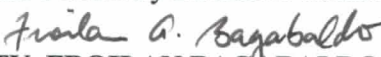
After evaluating the application for inclusion of the below listed medicines in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF), the Formulary Executive Council (FEC) respectfully recommends the **DISAPPROVAL** of the said requests:

1. **Pegylated Interferon alfa 2b 50 mcg, 80 mcg, 100 mcg, 120 mcg & 150 mcg Powder for Injection (SC)**
  - Not included as either first or second line drug in the World Health Organization Guidelines for the Prevention, Care and Treatment of Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Infection (March 2015).
  - It is currently not recommended because of the following factors: (1) moderate efficacy, (2) high cost, (3) availability as IV preparation, and (4) need to monitor for adverse effects.
2. **Cefuroxime suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 50 mL**
  - For a five-day treatment regimen (5mL twice a day, as stated in the justification of the proponent), an exact volume will not allow buffer for potential spillage or wastage.
3. **Losartan potassium + Amlodipine camsylate 50mg/5mg, 100mg/5mg tablet**
  - Cost of the fixed-dose combination (FDC) is very high (Php 27.00 to Php 30.00) compared to the total cost of the stand-alone preparations of losartan and amlodipine (Php 5.00)


Please be informed that the above list was posted for 30 days in the website of the Pharmaceutical Division to accommodate any comment or appeal from the stakeholders and none was received until the set deadline on 20 April 2016. Thus, the recommendation of the Council to disapprove the medicines still remains.

For your disposition, Ma'am.

Very truly yours,

For the Formulary Executive Council  
  
**ATTY. FROILAN BAGABALDO**  
Chair  
Formulary Executive Council

Recommending disapproval:

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

Official disapproval of the above medicines:

  
**JANETTE LORETO GARIN, MD, MBA-H**  
Secretary of Health