



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

10 February 2014

**HON. ENRIQUE T. ONA**  
 Secretary  
 Department of Health

Dear Secretary Ona:

After evaluating the documents submitted by the proponents pertinent to requests for reconsideration on the inclusion of the below listed medicines to the Philippine National Formulary (PNF), the Formulary Executive Council (FEC) respectfully recommends the **disapproval** of the said requests:

Drug	Dosage strength and formulation	FEC recommendation
1. Isotonic Electrolyte Solution (Acetated Ringer's Solution with Malic Acid)	Per 250 mL NaCl 1.6998 g, KCl 0.0746 g, CaCl <sub>2</sub> dihydrate 0.0919 g, MgCl <sub>2</sub> hexahydrate 0.0508 g, Na acetate trihydrate 0.8165 g, malic acid 0.1678 g	<b>Disapproval</b> No need for this preparation as current list of intravenous fluids in the PNDF satisfies the need for parenteral solutions.
2. Vitamins and Minerals (Ferrous salt + Folic acid + Vit. B + Vit. C + Calcium)	500 mg film coated tablet, syrup	<b>Disapproval</b> The current list of vitamin-mineral preparations in the PNDF is enough to satisfy the need of the population.
3. Montelukast + Levocetirizine	10 mg/5 mg tablet	<b>Disapproval</b> The individual preparations of montelukast and cetirizine are found to be more cost saving (Table 1).

**Table 1. Cost comparison of Montelukast+Levocetirizine versus individual preparations of Montelukast and Cetirizine**

Montelukast + Levocetirizine (Co-Altria) 29.50 Php/tablet	Montelukast 10 mg: 14.95 Php/tablet Cetirizine 10 mg: 0.79 Php/tablet
*based on Drug Price Reference Index	
<b>TOTAL TREATMENT COST:</b> 413.00 Php (for 2 weeks)	<b>TOTAL TREATMENT COST:</b> 220.00 Php (for 2 weeks)

4. Thyrotropin Alfa	900 microgram/mL lyophilized powder solution for injection	<b>Disapproval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The preparation is only an adjunctive diagnostic test and is not therapeutic.</li> <li>- Thyroid cancer may be treated with radioactive iodine alone.</li> <li>- Less than 10% of patients will need this preparation.</li> <li>- The preparation is costly, i.e., budget impact of Php 162 Million for all differentiated Thyroid cancer patients (1,692 patients).</li> </ul>
5. Ezetimibe + Simvastatin	10/10 mg, 10/20 mg, 10/40 mg tablet	<b>Disapproval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual preparations of Simvastatin and Ezetimibe are found to be more cost saving than the combination drug (Table 2).</li> <li>- In the Philippines, there have been no reports of serious adverse drug reactions due to Simvastatin.</li> <li>- Very few patients if at all will need this drug combination.</li> </ul>

**Table 2. Cost comparison of Ezetimibe + Simvastatin versus individual preparations of Ezetimibe and Simvastatin**

<b>Ezetimibe + Simvastatin (Vytorin)</b>  10 mg/10 mg: 45.32 Php/tablet 10 mg/20 mg: 57.45 Php/tablet 10 mg/40 mg: 82.03 Php/tablet	*Simvastatin 10 mg: Php 1.88/tablet *Simvastatin 20 mg: Php 1.23/tablet *Simvastatin 40 mg: Php 4.80 /tablet  +Ezetimibe 10 mg: Php 40/tablet  *based on Drug Price Reference Index +SRP
TOTAL TREATMENT COST (per month): 10 mg/10 mg: Php 1,359.60 10 mg/20 mg: Php 1,723.50 10 mg/40 mg: Php 2,460.90	TOTAL TREATMENT COST (per month): 10 mg/10 mg: Php 1,256.40 10 mg/20 mg: Php 1,236.90 10 mg/40 mg: Php 1,344.00

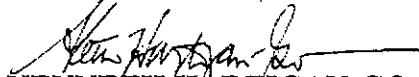
6. Balanced Multiple Replacement Solution in Viaflex container		<b>Disapproval of the proposed new immediate packaging</b>  Submitted documents failed to
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		show that it is more cost-saving than the currently listed immediate packaging, i.e., bottle/bag.
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For your approval, Sir.

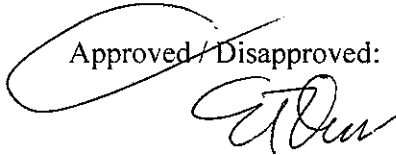
Very truly yours,

For the Formulary Executive Council



**KENNETH HARTIGAN-GO, MD, MD(UK), FPCP, FPSECP, FPSCOT, FICD**  
Co-Chair, Formulary Executive Council

Approved / Disapproved:



**ENRIQUE T. ONA, MD**  
Secretary of Health