



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

24 August 2015

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2015- 0325

**TO: ALL DOH REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS**

**SUBJECT: UPDATES ON THE PROCUREMENT OF CAT II ANTI-TB MEDICINES AND REQUEST FOR PROCUREMENT OF STREPTOMYCIN AND ETHAMBUTOL**

This is to inform you that the Negotiated Reimbursable Procurement of TB Medicines for CAT II through the World Health Organization (WHO) has been cancelled. In July 2015 during a meeting with Mr. Sherif Younan, WHO Technical Officer on Programme Management and Administration, the Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC) was informed that they cannot sign on the "conforme" portion of the Purchase Order (PO) issued by the Department of Health (DOH) since it is not part of the guidelines on reimbursable procurement.

In the DOH procurement process, in order to facilitate the payment for a procurement, the supplier needs to sign the PO for the Accounting Office. Since the signing of the PO cannot be settled between the DOH and the WHO Philippine Office, the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) recommended that the program should look for another facility that can facilitate the procurement of TB medicines. Moreover, the WHO suggested DOH to coordinate directly with the Global Drug Facility (GDF).

In the meantime, to ensure the uninterrupted treatment of TB cases, the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) would like to request all regions to procure Streptomycin and Ethambutol using the NTP sub-allotment funds and use CAT I kits as an option for treatment of cases needing CAT II TB kits.

For your strict compliance.

By the Authority of Secretary of Health

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