



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

11 October 2022

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2022 - 0537

**FOR: ALL CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL DRUG POLICY COMPLIANCE OFFICES, LEAGUES OF CITIES, PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SOCIETIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND REGIONAL OFFICES, BARMM MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS AND SANITARIA, AND OTHER CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) Recommendation for the Inclusion of Insulin Glargine and Non-inclusion of Insulin Detemir for Patients with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)**

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By virtue of Republic Act 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, health technology assessment (HTA) shall be institutionalized as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism to provide financing and coverage recommendations on health technologies to be funded by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Please be apprised that as of 10 October 2022, the Office of the Secretary of the DOH accepts the HTA Council recommendations on **insulin glargine 10mL vial (100 IU/ml) and 3mL pre-filled pen (100 IU/ml) and insulin detemir (100IU/mL, 3mL prefilled pen)** in the PNF, to wit:

- **Insulin glargine**

*The HTAC recommends the government financing of both insulin glargine 10mL vial (100 IU/ml) and 3mL pre-filled pen (100 IU/ml) through its inclusion in the PNF. Insulin glargine has shown comparable efficacy and acceptable safety profiles in both T1DM and T2DM patients as compared to Neutral Protamine Hagedorn (NPH) insulin. Furthermore, the intervention when compared to NPH insulin has shown lower risk of severe hypoglycemia.*

*Although the cost-effectiveness of insulin glargine pen and vial cannot be ascertained in the Philippine setting based on the WHO review and its budget impact is high, the availability of numerous biosimilars in the market will enable the lowering of cost of the drug through competitive bidding.*

- **Insulin detemir**

*The HTAC does not recommend the government financing and inclusion of insulin detemir pen (100IU/mL, 3mL prefilled pen) in the PNF. Insulin detemir has shown comparable efficacy and acceptable safety profiles in both T1DM and T2DM patients as*

*compared to NPH insulin. However, insulin detemir pen incurs a high budget impact. Additionally, since there is no biosimilar competitor, it is less likely to have a low bidding price.*

For more details, you may refer to the evidence summary posted on the HTA Philippines website:  
[https://bit.ly/HTACRecomm\\_InsulineGlargineandInsulinDetemir](https://bit.ly/HTACRecomm_InsulineGlargineandInsulinDetemir)

Kindly disseminate this to all concerned officials in your areas of responsibility so that they may be appropriately guided in their procurement activities. All are enjoined to ensure rational procurement, distribution, and use of health technologies in all government and private facilities.

Your full cooperation in this endeavor is expected and highly appreciated.

For your information and guidance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



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**ATTY. CHARADE MERCADO-GRANDE**  
OIC-Undersecretary of Health  
Health Regulation Team