




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

FOR: **ALL DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND REGIONAL OFFICES,
BARM MINISTERS OF HEALTH; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL
CENTERS, HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA, AND OTHERS
CONCERNED**

FROM: 
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Head, Health Technology Assessment Unit
Health Regulation Team

SUBJECT: **Consultation on HTAC Evaluation Framework for COVID-19 Vaccines**

DATE: 28 December 2020

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).

In light of the public health emergency, the HTA Unit has been receiving various requests for assessments of COVID-19 technologies, including COVID-19 vaccines. Due to the urgent timelines for vaccine selection, the HTA Council (HTAC) is being requested to come up with a recommendation. Pending regulatory standards for the said health technology, HTAC has planned to initiate an early HTA of the COVID-19 vaccines. To ensure that our stakeholders are informed about the assessment, HTAC drafted the attached **COVID-19 vaccine evaluation framework (EF)** using their decision criteria stipulated in the UHC Act to guide HTAC evidence appraisal and recommendation development. Consistent with HTAC's evidence-based recommendation process, other relevant documents such as the World Health Organization (WHO) Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines and the US Center for Disease Control - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Evidence to Recommendation Framework were considered for public health guidance on the safe use of vaccines and related biological products.

Aiming for a rigorous, transparent and consultative process, the Council would like to respectfully seek feedback from your respective office **on or before 07 January 2021** on the criteria, evidence and minimum specifications to be considered in the recommendation for selection among candidate vaccines.

We look forward to your usual support as HTAC commits to deliver on its mandate to assist the government in achieving Universal Health Care with the best available evidence even as the nation is in the midst of this unprecedented health crisis. Should you have questions or clarifications, kindly coordinate with the HTA Technical Secretariat through email at hta.philippines@gmail.com.

Thank you and best regards.