Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 April 2020

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary
Department of Health

Attention: COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Dear **Secretary Duque:**

This pertains to the request of the Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC) for the expert opinion of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) on the use of favipiravir for the management of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the local setting.

Relative thereto, the HTAC assumes that this is intended for "compassionate use" of favipiravir in the management and treatment of COVID-19 since the drug is not registered with the FDA. "Compassionate use" is acceptable as long as the following conditions are followed:

1. There is a reasonable basis for its use (e.g., early trials show promise, no other drug is available).

2. A valid informed consent shall be obtained from the patients or their legally appointed representatives. The process shall be free of undue influence and coercive presence and the risks are well described and understood.

3. The clinical data and course must follow a systematic protocol which shall be the basis of subsequent reports to the DOH and FDA as required.

4. The health providers involved shall exercise due diligence in furthering its use in a clinical trial when sufficient amount of medicines (needed in the clinical trial) will be provided by the donor.

It is in this context that the HTAC supports the decision of the Philippine government to join a multi-country clinical trial for favipiravir.

For your information and guidance.

Thank you and best regards.

Respectfully yours,

For the Health Technology Assessment Council

Marita V.T-Reyes

MARITA V. TOLENTINO-REYES, MD
Chair, HTAC