[DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2012- 0002, February 06, 2012]

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF YELLOW PRESCRIPTION PADS

I. RATIONALE

Section 40 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (Republic Act 9165) mandates that "all prescriptions (containing dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals) issued by physicians, dentists, veterinarians or practitioners shall be written on forms exclusively issued by and obtainable from the Department of Health (DOH). Such forms shall be made of a special kind of paper and shall be distributed in such quantities and contain such information and other data as the DOH may, by rules and regulations, require."

In line with this, the Department of Health through Department Memorandum 2006-0036 dated March 6, 2006 entitled "Distribution and Sale of Yellow Prescription Pads has exclusively distributed controlled yellow prescription pads in all Centers for Health Development and two hospitals in Metro Manila for the past 2 years. However, there is a need to further increase accessibility to these prescriptions pads for the benefit of clients needing the prescription and the physicians, dentists and veterinarians using them. There is also a big demand from government physicians to make these pads available to them in their own hospitals.

In this regard, it is deemed necessary to increase the distribution sites to include all retained hospitals.

II. OBJECTIVE

To increase the access of authorized health personnel to yellow prescription pads and improve the utilization and monitoring of these.

III. SCOPE

The revised guidelines shall cover all Department of Health Centers for Health Development (DOH-CHDs) and Hospitals nationwide as well as partner agencies such as the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

IV. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following shall be observed in the management, distribution and sale of the pads:

A. DOH Central Office

1. The Special Concerns Technical Cluster (SCTC), DOH through the dangerous drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (DDAPTP) shall be responsible in forecasting the number of secured yellow prescription pads requested annually, estimating the funding requirements for it, including it in the Annual Procurement Plan, coordinating its printing by the National Printing Office, and preparing the allocation list based on need. The materials management division shall be responsible for the storage and delivery of the yellow prescription pads and for its distribution based on the allocation list. The Program shall be responsible for informing the distribution sites (CHDs, Hospitals and partner agencies) of the initial shipment of stocks and succeeding shipments thereafter;

2. The Program shall be responsible for safekeeping the records submitted to it through the IT data-base system developed by the Information Management Service;

3. The Program shall advocate and network with partner agencies to facilitate ease of distribution, utilization and security of yellow prescription pads

B. For the DOH-Centers for Health Development, DOH Hospitals and partner agencies

1. The Food and drug Administration (FDA) Regulatory Officers of the Centers for Health Development (CHDs) and the designated personnel by the chief of hospital shall be the persons-in-charge of the sale and distribution of the yellow prescription pads. In addition, they shall have the following functions:

a) Utilize the web-based an Information Technology (IT) database system prescribed by the Information Management Service of the Department of Health which shall secure the following information.

i. Name of Physician/dentist/Veterinarian,
ii. S2 License Number, Residential Address
iii. Hospital/Clinic/Business Address
iv. Residential and Business Telephone Numbers

b) Maintain and manage records of purchases, security of available prescription pads and confidentiality of the IT database.

c) Ensure that only physicians, dentists and veterinarians with valid S2 Licenses (duly issued by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) shall be allowed to purchase the controlled prescription pads.

d) Encode all information required by the system to help establish baseline information of Physicians, Dentists and Veterinarians allowed by law, through the issuance of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) S2 license, to handle and prescribe dangerous drug preparations.

Ensure that only a maximum of ten (10) Prescription Pad Booklets, at any given time, shall be sold to an authorized S2 License holder