



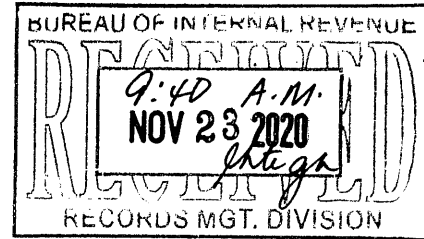
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



CENTER FOR DRUG REGULATION AND RESEARCH

07 August 2020

CAESAR R. DULAY
Commissioner of Internal Revenue
Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
Room 511, BIR National Office Bldg., BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City



Subject: Clarification on the List of VAT-Exempt Drugs under Joint AO No. 2-2018

Dear **Commissioner Dulay**:

In compliance with the Joint Administrative Order No. 2-2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regularly updates the “List of VAT-exempt Diabetes, High-Cholesterol and Hypertension Drugs.” However, there might be some confusion about drug products included in the list. Please be informed that the list is based on the International Non-Proprietary Name (INN) or generic name of the drug products which include the salt forms. An example is Metformin, wherein its INN is Metformin while its generic name and its salt form is Metformin hydrochloride. Metformin hydrochloride is the active pharmaceutical ingredient used to make Metformin 500 mg Tablet. As such, Metformin and Metformin hydrochloride is one and the same drug product.

You may encounter several Certificates of Product Registration (CPR) issued by the FDA indicating the salt form. The Center for Drug Regulation and Research is working on this to reflect the generic name in INN on the CPR. Also, we will provide the next list with corresponding salt forms, where applicable.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

By Authority of the Director General
Per FDA Order No. 2016-005

JESUSA JOYCE N. CIRUNAY, RPh
Director IV

