Botika Ng Barangay (BnB)

I. What is Botika ng Barangay?

Botika ng Barangay (BnB) - refers to a drug outlet managed by a legitimate community organization (CO) / non-government organization (NGO) and/or the Local Government Unit (LGU), with a trained operator and a supervising pharmacist specifically established in accordance with this Order. The BnB outlet should be initially identified, evaluated and selected by the concerned Center for Health Development (CHD), approved by the PHARMA 50 Project Management Unit (PMU) and specially licensed by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to sell, distribute, offer for sale and/or make available low-priced generic home remedies, over-the-counter (OTC) Drugs and two (2) selected, publicly-known prescription antibiotics drugs (i.e. Amoxicillin and Cotrimoxazole).

The establishment of the Botika ng Barangay (BnB) in the communities, including the insurgent areas, ensures accessibility of low-priced generic over-the-counter drugs and eight (8) prescription drugs as recommended by the National Drug Formulary Committee. Under Memorandum # 31 and its amendment, as much as 40 essential medicines that address common diseases can be made available in BnBs depending on the morbidity and mortality profiles of the community. And the policies surrounding the BnB (AO 144) ensure that such can be sustained in the medium term.

II. Objectives

The objectives of this Order are as follows:

1. To promote equity in health by ensuring the availability and accessibility of affordable, safe and effective, quality essential drugs to all, with priority for marginalized, underserved, critical and hard to reach areas.
2. To integrate all related issuances of the DOH that provides rules and regulations in the establishment and operations of BnBs; and
3. To define the roles and responsibilities of the different units of the DOH and other partners from the different sectors in facilitating and regulating the establishment of BnBs.

III. Status of the Program
Variants of the BnBs include Botika Binhi (funded by the members of the Peso for Health with counterpart from the local government unit), Health Plus (funded by the GTZ), Botika sa Parokya (funded by DOH and Office of the President) and the Botika ng Bayan (BNB) express under PITC/ PITC Pharma Inc. At present, about 16,350 BnB outlets have been established in the country.

The initial target was to establish 1 BnB to serve 3 adjacent Barangays. However, due to the immensity of Barangays, and the need for more than 1 BnB in some poor adjacent barangays to better provide for the service, the target were changed to 1:1.

Since absorptive capacity for the DOH-CHDs to establish BnBs is also limited due to resource and time constraints, the initial phasing of the target to achieve 1:1 is being done. Thus, for the next two (2) years, the target would be initially 1:2 except for select areas that have high poverty incidence, conflict or Geographically isolated areas, and the like where the target would be 1:1.

Sourcing of medicines for the initial seed capital of these medicines is done through PITC Pharma Inc.

**Issuances about Botika ng Barangay**

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