

Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

8/F Philippine Heart Center Bldg., East Ave., Quezon City

Tel. 927-1575, 923-1301 loc. 3805-3815, Fax No. 927-1272

(Claims Processing Department) 3/F JOCFER Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City

Tel. 455-0826, 453-0963



PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

No. 005, series of 2000

DATE : April 3, 2000

FOR : ALL NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM MEMBERS, ALL REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICES, ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALL CONCERNED

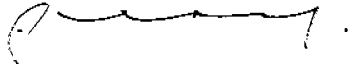
SUBJECT : WITHDRAWAL OF TROGLITAZONE (REZULIN) FROM THE MARKET

As per Bureau of Food and Drug Advisory No. 00 – 03 issued March 24, 2000 regarding the voluntary withdrawal of Troglitazone (Rezulin) from the market, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation will not honor claims for its reimbursement regardless of preparation, dosage, cost and quantity, effective immediately.

On March 20, 2000, the U.S. FDA asked the manufacturer of Troglitazone to remove the product from the U.S. market after its review of recent safety data showed that Rezulin is more toxic to the liver than two alternative diabetes drugs and that its continued use now poses an unacceptable risk to the patients.

“Troglitazone (Rezulin) has been in the Philippine market since October 1998 under a monitored release scheme. Although there has not been any report of adverse drug reactions among local patients, the company has decided that it is in the best interest of patients to voluntarily discontinue marketing the drug in the Philippines”.

For your compliance.


ENRIQUE M. ZALAMEA
President and CEO

Accreditation and Quality Assurance Dept.
Standards Devt and Research Div
C/AGANON/rezulin

