



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



FDA ADVISORY
No. 2019-501

04 DEC 2019

TO: HEADS OF HOSPITALS RETAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH [DOH]


SUBJECT: Gentle reminder for all physicians connected with public hospitals pertaining to DOH-CSC Joint Memorandum Circular 2010-01 and urging them to avoid all interaction with the tobacco/e-cigarette industry

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) informs heads of hospitals that e-cigarette companies are currently engaging physicians, from both the public and private sector, in an attempt to recruit them in disinformation campaigns that promote electronic cigarette use as viable harm reduction options. Please understand that e-cigarettes (electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems, heated tobacco products, and hybridizations and modifications thereof) have been proven to introduce new risks above and over those already present in traditional combustible cigarettes. Both reduced exposure and reduced risk claims in favor of e-cigarettes have been debunked, leading to a call from the American Medical Association to BAN these products until approved and regulated by the US FDA.

In addition, these products have been demonstrated to be gateway options for subsequent tobacco and illicit drug use, especially for the youth, blunting any purported public health benefit from e-cigarette implementations compliant with the relevant public health standards.

In compliance with DOH-CSC Joint Memorandum Circular 2010-01, please advise all physicians, especially in the rank of Medical Officer, Medical Specialist, and Scientist, to DENY ALL requests to engage with the tobacco industry. Such engagements are inimical to the concord of medicine and public health, and reflect poorly on our commitment to protect the Filipino people from harm.

Dissemination of this advisory to all concerned is hereby requested.


ROLANDO ENRIQUE D. DOMINGO, MD, DPBO
Undersecretary of Health
Officer-in-Charge, Director General

