



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City



June 14, 2000

BUREAU CIRCULAR

No. 04 s. 2000

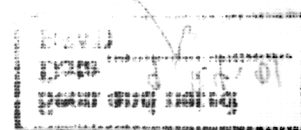
To: All Regional Food and Drug Regulation Officers

Subject: **Implementation of Administrative Order No. 13, s. 1999, "Use of Hydroquinone and/or Tretinoin (Retinoic Acid)"**

Administrative Order No. 13, s. 1999, dated April 6, 1999 and with subject "Use of Hydroquinone and/or Tretinoin (Retinoic Acid)", provides the classification of preparations containing hydroquinone and/or tretinoin and the type of establishment where they may be sold. A summary of the provisions in the said A.O. is presented in the table below:

Concentration of Active Ingredient	Dispensing Classification	Type of Outlet/Restriction
Less than or equal to 2.0% Hydroquinone	Household Remedy	Any establishment; to be placed in a segregated area
More than 2.0 % but less than 3.0% Hydroquinon	Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug	Drug outlets; without need for Doctor's prescription
More than 3.0% Hydroquinone	Prescription (Rx) Drug	Drug outlets; Requires Doctor's prescription
Less than or equal to 0.025% Tretinoin (Retinoic Acid)	Household Remedy	Any establishment; to be placed in a segregated area
More than 0.025% but less than or equal to 0.05% Tretinoin	Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug	Drug outlets; without need for Doctor's prescription
More than 0.05% Tretinoin	Prescription (Rx) Drug	Drug outlets; Requires Doctor's prescription

SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH



Combination of Hydroquinone (less than or equal to 2.0%) and Tretinoin (Less than or equal to 0.025%)	Household Remedy	Any establishment; to be placed in a segregated area
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In the interest of public health and safety, **all Regional Food and Drug Regulation Officers are hereby directed to strictly implement the provisions of the above stated Order.**

Your full cooperation and concern on this matter will ensure the efficient and effective discharge of the Bureau's mandate.


WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director