



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

October 25, 2002

Bureau Circular
No. 12 s. 2002

Subject : **Reiterating the Ban on the Use of Chloramphenicol in Food Producing Animals**

In the interest of public health and consumer safety and protection, the Bureau of Food and Drugs hereby reiterates the ban on the use of chloramphenicol in food producing animals.

The use of Chloramphenicol in all food producing animals, including in aquaculture, was banned through an Administrative Order issued jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health on April 30, 1990. The ban was issued after it was determined that chloramphenicol residues build up in animal tissues that are eventually ingested by humans when these are consumed. This could lead to a) an increased chance of human exposure to possibility of aplastic anemia, one of the rare but fatal conditions associated with chloramphenicol, and b) alteration of microbial ecology leading to increased chloramphenicol-resistance of human pathogens.

Drugstore owners and pharmacists are reminded that Chloramphenicol products should only be sold with a doctor's prescription. It should not however be sold with a veterinarian's prescription. Any illegal sale is subject to the sanctions and penalties stipulated in R.A. 3720, otherwise known as the "Foods, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act."

Manufacturers and distributors of Chloramphenicol containing products are directed to maintain records of all batches of such products that are manufactured and distributed and to make these records available for inspection by BFAD Food Drug Regulation Officers at all times.

All are enjoined to refrain from using chloramphenicol containing drug products all food producing animals and in aquaculture and help prevent the emergence of Chloramphenicol-resistant pathogenic organisms.

(Sgd) Prof. LETICIA-BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, M.S.
Director