



12 September 2013

FDA Advisory
No. **2013-035**

**SUBJECT: CONSUMER PROTECTION TIPS WHEN AVAILING
TREATMENT MODALITIES OUTSIDE OF THE STANDARD
MEDICAL CARE**

One of the duties of the physician is to provide competent medical care and treatment to patient with full professional skill in accordance with the current standards of care. The FDA has noted that some licensed physicians are providing health services which may not fall within the current standards of medical care or treatment. Such treatment, therapy or practice may include off-label use of drugs, like intravenous injection glutathione for skin withening and other health conditions, or the use of food supplements and other concoction for cancer treatment and diabetes control, or any alternative or complementary treatment that has no scientific basis or without any clinical trial evidence to back up the claim.

The FDA is cognizant of the fact that these various treatment modalities are sought out by patients or consumers for economic reasons or as a final option in case of terminal diseases when standard medical care has failed. As mandated by Republic Act No. 9711, otherwise known as the FDA Act of 2009, all drug products must be registered and all establishments engaged in the manufacture, trade, distribution, importation, export, wholesale of drug products must secure FDA license. The public is advised to report to the FDA any treatment or therapeutic modalities using health products, such as food supplements and medicines that are outside of the current standards of medical care that have caused or contributed to the death, serious illness or serious injury to a consumer, a patient, or any person; or failed efficacy as promised. To submit your report to the FDA, please email us via report@fda.gov.ph.

Here are some tips for consumers and patients to ensure that they are receiving proper and appropriate treatment or therapy: a) Make sure that the attending health worker is a licensed physician, registered with the Philippine Regulatory Commission and has a Taxpayer Income Number (TIN) and Professional Tax Receipt (PTR) No.; b) Procedures of treatment and therapies should be given in health facilities that are licensed by the DOH; c) Confer with your first attending physician for guidance and opinion. Moreover, if the treatment involves interventions using health products as well as devices, the health product or device should have FDA authorization in the form of a Certificate of Product Registration by logging in at www.fda.gov.ph and type in the name of the product in the SEARCH bar.





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



Food and dietary supplements that carries the label “No Approved Therapeutic Claims” are not drugs and are not authorized by the FDA to be used in any form of therapy and treatment of diseases.

To know the FDA-approved indication of a health product, please email us at info@fda.gov.ph, with a subject heading “CDRR”.



KENNETH Y. HARTIGAN-GO, MD
Acting Director General

