



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

August 26, 2021

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2021 - 0374

**TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES; ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS; AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: PRICE CAP FOR COVID-19 REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION-POLYMERASE REACTION (RT-PCR) TESTING**

On November 4, 2020, the Executive Order (EO) No. 118 was signed, which mandated the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), to determine, formulate, and implement a price cap for COVID-19 testing conducted by hospitals, laboratories, and other health establishments and facilities including the test kits used in the conduct of said tests, subject to existing rules and regulations.

In view of EO 118, the Joint Administrative Order No. 1, s. 2020 was issued to implement regulation of prices of COVID-19 testing and test kits. As stated in the JAO, a monthly review will be conducted by DOH and DTI, hence, the mandated price cap shall be subject to change. Pursuant to the foregoing, the following price caps for public and private health facilities including the price cap for Home Service are hereby issued for RT-PCR Plate-based and Cartridge-based Testing effective starting **September 6, 2021**.

		<b>PLATE-BASED</b>	<b>GENEXPERT (CARTRIDGE-BASED)</b>
<b>PUBLIC</b>	<b>Price Cap for Cost of Procedure<sup>1,2</sup></b>	Php 2,800.00	Php 2,450.00
<b>PRIVATE</b>	<b>Price Cap for Cost of Procedure<sup>1,2</sup> (with 20% allowable markup)</b>	Php 3,360.00	Php 2,940.00

	<b>PLATE-BASED</b>	<b>GENEXPERT (CARTRIDGE-BASED)</b>
<b>Price Cap for Home Service <sup>1,2</sup></b>	Php 1,000.00	Php 1,000.00

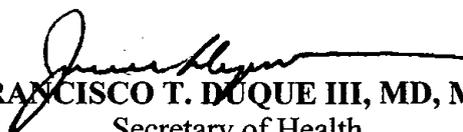
<sup>1</sup> Laboratories, health facilities, and other testing centers may have prices lower than the prescribed price cap for RT-PCR testing and Home Service Fee provided that quality of services are maintained. However, no manufacturer, distributor, or testing facility should exceed the price cap.

<sup>2</sup> Senior Citizen and Persons with Disability discounts are applicable to the total amount of the service/s rendered.

This information should be available for public access on the DOH website and other social media platforms.

All COVID-19 testing laboratories, health facilities, and centers are to strictly comply with this price cap.

Dissemination to all concerned stakeholders is requested.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
 Secretary of Health