POSITION STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON DENGUE

Between 1 January to 6 July 2019, 115,986 dengue cases including 456 deaths were reported through the DOH routine surveillance system, with a CFR of 0.42%. With a median age of 12 years, the most affected age group among dengue cases and deaths is 5-9 years at 30% and 40% of dengue cases, respectively.

The Philippines Department of Health (DOH) declared a National Dengue Alert on 15 July 2019, urging regional DOH offices to step up dengue surveillance, case management and outbreak response, clean-up drives, and vector control in health facilities and communities.

The number of dengue cases continues to rise, reaching to 167,607 with 720 deaths, as of 27 July 2019. This is higher compared to 85,011 cases with 464 deaths reported during the same period in 2018.

The Philippine Medical Association supports WHO current recommendations on the use of the dengue vaccine as a supplement to other preventive measures particularly on vector control and early detection and appropriate treatment. Clinical trials and studies have shown that the dengue vaccine will help individuals who had previous dengue infection from getting severe disease.

The Philippine Medical Association provides the following specific recommendations:

1. Only persons age group 9-45 years old with evidence of previous dengue infection would be vaccinated.
2. Prior to vaccination, serological screening using Dengue 1gG ELISA or rapid diagnostic tests should be carried out.
3. The dengue vaccine may be given to individuals who are interested, willing and aware of the benefits and possible risks of the vaccines.
The Philippine Medical Association is in favor of considering re-registration of dengue vaccine provided that all the national regulatory requirements are met.

We respect and support the opinion of our specialty societies on the issue and we confirm that there is consistency on our various position statements.

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Noted by:

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