



POSITION PAPER OF THE PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES ON PRESERVING THE USEFULNESS OF FLUOROQUINOLONES

The PIDSP supports strategies to preserve the usefulness of fluoroquinolones.

At present, there are limited indications for the use of fluoroquinolones in children. Present safety data suggest the possibility of increased musculoskeletal adverse events in this age group. Current indications for use among children include (1) treatment of infections by multi-drug resistant gram negative pathogens, such as shigella dysentery, where there are no safe and effective alternatives and (2) as part of a treatment regimen for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Thus it is still an important chemotherapeutic agent in the armamentarium of pediatricians.

We are alarmed that presently these antibiotics are being prescribed for conditions not necessarily requiring antibiotics or wherein alternative antibiotics with a narrower spectrum of activity may be used. Also, it is common knowledge that in drugstores, these powerful antibiotics may be purchased even without a prescription. The unrestricted use of these medications has contributed to the increase in bacterial resistance of many important pathogens. In the latest DOH Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Program Progress Report, 2010 it was shown that several gram negative pathogens such as *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* and *Neisseria gonorrhoea* have high resistance rates to fluoroquinolones.

The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of the Philippines endorses the strict implementation of the sale of all antibiotics including fluoroquinolones by PRESCRIPTION ONLY. This means that these drugs can only be dispensed upon the written order of a duly licensed and registered physician. This would hopefully limit the unnecessary consumption of these drugs. If the use of these drugs is really essential for the therapy of specific conditions, it should be under the supervision of a physician.