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National Health Insurance, a Momentum to Provide Better Access for Effective Health Service for the Indonesians

The program is aligned with IPMG's commitment to provide better healthcare services for the benefit of the public

JAKARTA, 22 April 2014 – The National Health Insurance (JKN) program implemented by the government early this year is aimed at providing better access for patients to safe and highly efficient medicines. Since it was first rolled out, the program, which aims to attract 121.6 million people, or 48 percent of Indonesia's population during the first stage, has been greeted with public enthusiasm, but it is warned that inadequate funding could undermine the quality of care.

In order for the program to effectively reach its objectives, the efficacy of medicines in medical treatment period should be prioritized. Lack of efficacy will lead to longer treatment period and higher medical cost, which then would pose a big question on how to ensure the sustainability of the program in the long run. International Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group (IPMG), a non-profit organization comprises of 24 international research-based pharmaceutical companies operating in Indonesia, which has been the strategic partner for government in improving the healthcare system in the country, sees the need of providing a forum of discussion among the healthcare associations and practitioners to raise awareness on the important role of quality medicine in creating cost-effective healthcare service.

Luthfi Mardiansyah, Chairman of IPMG, during a media discussion held today said, "High medical costs will only create significant burdens to the implementation of JKN, and one of the reasons is the lack of efficacy. Therefore, it is essential to increase awareness of cost-effective practice in Indonesia's pharmaceutical sector to ensure that JKN is effectively implemented."

The discussion presents prominent individuals in the healthcare sector, including Dra. Maura Linda Sitanggang, Apt., Ph.D, Head of the Health Ministry Pharmacy and Medical Equipment of the Ministry of Health, Drs. Nurul Falah Eddy Pariang, Apt, *Chairman of the Indonesian Pharmacist Association (IAI)*, Dr. Isman Firdaus, SpJP, FIHA, Chairman, Department of Organization and Policy Advocation, Indonesia Heart Association (PERKI) and *Prof. dr. Hasbullah Thabrany, MPH, Dr.PH, Health Economic Expert from the University of Indonesia.*

Luthfi further added that it is also important to always remember that every patient has the right to access the *efficacious, safe and effective medicines* they need. It is responsibilities of the medical services providers to respect the rights of the patients and recognize that each patient is an individual with unique healthcare needs, therefore it is crucial to assist and ensure the patients have access to the medical treatment based on their needs.

Prof. dr. Hasbullah Thabrany, a health economic expert who also initiated the implementation of JKN, reminds the importance of all related stakeholders in the healthcare sector, including private sectors, to collaborate in providing the accessible efficacious, safe and highly efficient medicines needed by the Indonesian people through JKN program. "By

the end of the day, what really important is that the program was designed to provide not only wider and better access for healthcare services to all public without exception, but also provide the right medication based on the needs of the patients. Therefore, cooperation between all parties is very important, including the role of the private sector in providing access to innovative medicines as responses to the needs of patients.”

About IPMG

IPMG is a non-profit organization that comprises 24 international research-based pharmaceutical companies operating in Indonesia. IPMG was established in August 2002. IPMG members and their headquarters continuously invest in research and development to bring the latest innovation in medicines that are safe and produced in accordance to the international standard of quality to Indonesia. So far IPMG members have introduced more than 250 new products to Indonesia to treat cancer, infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases and other diseases. IPMG members today employ about 10,000 people in their operations. IPMG strives to combat and help eradicate counterfeit drugs by raising public awareness of the danger of counterfeit drugs. IPMG is an active member of International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) and the Indonesian Chambers of Commerce (KADIN).

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