



# MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Office of the Minister of State  
and Minister of Health

## CIRCULAR NOTE No. 9 11/2017/XII/MS

### Natural Medicines

### INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Considering that for the purposes of the Decree-Law no. 12/2004, of 26 May, on Pharmaceutical Activities, medicines are considered to be any substance or composition that has curative or preventive properties for diseases and their symptoms, of human beings, with a view to establishing a medical diagnosis or to restoring, correcting or modifying their functions.

Considering that medicines can be of a chemical or natural nature and that the aforementioned Decree-Law does not distinguish between medicines according to their nature.

Considering that, in recent years, it has been verified that the demand for natural medicines, such as essential oils, homeopathic remedies and food supplements, free of chemical products has been gaining a growing importance within the community.

Bearing in mind that under the terms of Ministerial Diploma No. 5/2004, of July 14, 2004, products for special alimentation, namely essential oils, medicinal herbs and food supplements, can be sold and stored in pharmacies.

Thus, under the terms of article 3 of Decree-Law No. 21/2015, of July 8, which creates the Organic Law of the Ministry of Health, the following guideline is issued:

1. Until approval of specific legislation on medicines, all acts relating to the importation and commercialization of medicines of a natural nature should observe the norms laid down in Decree-Law No. 12/2004, of 26 May, on Pharmaceutical Activities, as well as those contained in Ministerial Diploma No. 5/2004, of 14 July 2004, with the necessary adaptations.
2. This Circular Note shall take effect on the date of its signature.

Be it published.

Dili, December 18, 2017.

Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo

Palácio das  
Cas, Calcoli  
ca Postal 374  
Timor-Leste