



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 9, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0370

TO: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS, CHIEFS OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REGULATORY BUREAU, CHIEFS OF REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, HEADS OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND OTHER CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Minimum Qualifications and Training Requirements of Ambulance Personnel for Type I and Type II Ambulances for CY 2021 Onwards

Last July 12, 2019, the Department of Health (DOH) issued out Department Circular No. 2019-0277 titled "Moratorium for the Implementation of Minimum Qualifications and Training Requirements for Type 1 and 2 Ambulances." This was in response to appeals from stakeholders to consider other minimum qualifications for ambulance personnel which was documented in Executive Committee Resolution No. 60 (Concerns on the Department of Health Licensing Requirements for Ambulances).

A moratorium was imposed on the minimum qualification for Type I ambulances and all training requirements for both Type I and II ambulances required in Administrative Order No. 2018-0001 (Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure of Land Ambulances and Ambulances Service Providers) **until December 31, 2020.**

With the moratorium period nearing its end, the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) consulted the Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB) regarding the availability of required trainings for ambulance personnel starting CY 2021.

Based on HEMB's updates, trainings for Standard First Aid, Basic Life Support and Advance Cardiac Life Support can be accessed by stakeholders from DOH recognized training providers provided in Department Circular No. 2019-0225 (Recognition of Training Providers for Ambulance Services). However, trainings for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-basic, advanced/paramedic are still limited. The DOH, Bureau of Fire Protection and Philippine Red Cross offer EMT-basic training but for their respective internal personnel only. Moreover, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Board has already approved and promulgated the EMT-basic units of competencies but is still set to roll-out the training by 2021.

In view of HEMB's inputs and in consideration of the ongoing pandemic response, the following shall be the trainings required for ambulance personnel starting CY 2021 onwards:

Category of Ambulance	Training Requirements
Type I	Standard First Aid Basic Life Support
Type II	Standard First Aid Basic Life Support Advance Cardiac Life Support

Minimum qualification for Type II ambulance personnel shall be retained as prescribed in A.O. No. 2018-0001 while for Type I ambulance personnel, the minimum qualification shall be based on their date of hiring as follows:

Category of Ambulance	Minimum Qualifications
Type I	<i>If hired prior to the effectivity of A.O. No. 2018-0001 (before February 27, 2018):</i> In lieu of the 4-year health related course, the personnel shall have at least <u>2 years of experience</u> or <u>25 emergency management cases handled</u>
	<i>If hired on or after the effectivity of A.O. No. 2018-0001 (on February 27, 2018 onwards):</i> Graduate of any health related 4 year course
Type II	Licensed or Registered Nurse (RN)

The minimum qualifications and trainings for ambulance personnel prescribed above shall be observed **starting January 1, 2021**, during monitoring visits and for renewal of license to operate (LTO) for 2022 onwards.

Renewal of LTO for CY 2021 (October 1 to December 15, 2020) is still covered by the moratorium period provided by Department Circular No. 2019-0277. Thus, only the personnel of Type II ambulances are required to have the minimum qualification of a licensed/registered nurse. No trainings shall be required during the renewal.

For your information and strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


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 OIC - Undersecretary of Health
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