



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FEB 07 2013

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2013 - 0006

SUBJECT: Guidelines to "Rule XI: Role of DOH in the Omnibus Rules and Regulations Implementing the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as Amended by Republic Act No. 10022"

I. BACKGROUND/ RATIONALE

On January 2, 2003, Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 1 s. 2003 entitled "Operational Guidelines in the Conduct of Pre-Employment Medical Examination of Overseas Workers and Seafarers" was issued to establish and promulgate guidelines in the regulation of medical clinics where Pre-Employment Medical Examinations (PEME) are being conducted.

Pursuant to A.O. No. 181 s. 2004 dated September 9, 2004 known as "Revised Rules and Regulations Governing Accreditation of Medical Facilities for Overseas Workers and Seafarers", medical clinics were required to establish a Quality Standard System as part of its continuous improvement in the standards of medical service for overseas work applicants.

Subsequently, on July 27, 2007, A.O. No. 2007 – 0025 was issued providing for the "Revised Guidelines for Conducting Medical Fitness Examinations for Seafarers". This brings to light a list of medical guidelines that may render a seafarer unfit for sea duty. With the decision by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to include the Manila amendments into the standards set by the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), it is essential that Filipino sailors and maritime physicians understand these amendments which may affect their professional qualifications in relation to additional requirements and competencies they need to meet to acquire an STCW Certificate.

Furthermore, on March 8, 2010, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10022 also known as "An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known As 'The Migrant Workers And Overseas Filipinos Act Of 1995,' As Amended, Further Improving The Standard Of Protection And Promotion Of The Welfare Of Migrant Workers, Their Families And Overseas Filipinos In Distress, And For Other Purposes", lapsed into law. The law recognized the importance of the role of government agencies particularly the Department of Health (DOH) through the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS) in upholding the health, safety and welfare of Filipino migrant workers. On July 29, 2010, the Omnibus Rules and Regulations implementing the aforementioned Act was published and this put the law into full force and effect.

All applicants for overseas work are required to undergo PEME at medical clinics accredited by DOH. With the variation in health examination packages among receiving countries, Section 16 of R.A. No. 10022 authorizes DOH to promulgate the necessary guidelines by prescribing, among others, a reasonable range of fees on the aforesaid examinations to enhance the quality of PEME.

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