



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

June 16, 2017

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2017 - 0222

FOR: **ALL DOH CENTRAL AND REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS,  
HEALTH FACILITY OWNERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

SUBJECT: **Guidelines on the Issuance of License To Operate an Ambulance  
and Ambulance Service Provider for 2017**

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Administrative Order No. 2016-0029 entitled Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure of Ambulance and Ambulance Service Providers was issued last June 29, 2016 to provide guidelines on the standards and requirements on the use of ambulance service vehicles.

However, due to the clamor of stakeholders in complying with the new standards, Department Circular No. 2016-0357 dated December 16, 2016 was issued. DC No. 2016-0357 extends the moratorium period for compliance for both institution-based and non-institution based ambulance and ambulance service providers until December 31, 2017.

In spite of this issuance, several facilities had difficulties in meeting requirements on the following emergency medicines:

1. Bretylium 500mg/10ml vial
2. Calcium Chloride 10% ampule/vial
3. Isoproterenol 1mg/5ml ampule
4. Propanolol 1mg/ml ampule

The Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) coordinated with Food and Drug Administration and the Pharmaceutical Division of the Department of Health on availability and accessibility of these emergency drugs, wherein, the preparation of two (2) drugs (Bretylium and Propanolol) are not available in the market, while Calcium Chloride and Isoproterenol need a special compassionate permit from the FDA, as these drugs are not registered in the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, the License To Operate shall be issued for those who have applied for an ambulance and ambulance service provider from August 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, which are found to be compliant with the standards and requirements set forth by AO No. 2016-0029, with the aforementioned medicines as not part of the requirement, with validity until December 31, 2017.

Starting January 1, 2018, all ambulance and ambulance service providers shall be licensed according to the revised guidelines to be released by HFSRB.

For strict compliance.

  
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Secretary of Health