



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2021- 0478

FOR : **ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH-BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARRM); DIVISION CHIEFS OF CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (CHD-RLED); MOH-BARRM REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT CLUSTER (RLEC); HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REGULATORY BUREAU (HFSRB); REGULATORY OFFICERS (RO); AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **Decentralization of Licensing and Regulatory Functions for Level 2 General Hospitals from Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) to the Center for Health Development Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Division (CHD-RLEDs)**

The Department of Health (DOH) Executive Committee on its 138th Regular Executive Committee Meeting on October 12, 2021, agreed that the pilot run of the decentralization of licensing and regulation of level 2 general hospitals shall be implemented in the following regions: CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Davao, MIMAROPA and Northern Mindanao. The decision to rollout the implementation in the above mentioned regions was based on the results of the self-evaluation for readiness using the criteria for scoring as specified on Annex B of Administrative Order No. 2021-0019, titled "*Guidelines in the Decentralization of Regulation of Levels 2, 3 General Hospitals and Specialty Hospitals to the Department of Health Center for Health Development-Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Division.*" The full implementation of decentralization including level 3 general hospital shall commence only after they have pass the set criteria satisfactorily.

The following guidelines shall be followed in the transition period of the decentralization to CHD-RLEDs:

1. Renewal of license from October 1 to December 15, 2021 for level 2 and 3 general hospitals for CY 2022 in all regions shall still be with HFSRB.
2. Starting January 1, 2022, the abovementioned five (5) regions: CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Davao, MIMAROPA and Northern Mindanao shall handle application for permit to construct (PTC) and license to operate (LTO) of level 2 general hospitals within their jurisdictions or their area of responsibilities while applications for PTC and LTO of level 2 general hospitals in other regions shall be handled by HFSRB.

3. Application for PTC and LTO of level 3 general hospitals shall still remain with HFSRB.
4. Each CHD-RLED shall develop their plan on hiring the additional staff to fill-in the identified gaps in the number of their personnel in 2022-2023 as approved by their Regional Director. At least 80% of their needed ROs should already be hired prior to the decentralization of regulation for level 2 and 3 hospitals.
5. Capacity building of ROs on hospital decentralization shall be under the DOH Academy.

Their individual posttest scores shall be part of the criteria in determining the readiness of the CHD-RLEDs to regulate level 2 and 3 general hospitals in their regions.

6. A self-evaluation shall be carried out by the DOH CHD-RLED on or before September 1, 2022. The criteria to be used shall still be based on Annex B of AO No. 2021-0019.
7. The DOH CHD-RLED shall not be given tasks in conflict with regulation, such as certification of programs like newborn screening which is a requirement for licensing a health facility, and shall focus on the performance of their regulatory functions, pursuant to Section VII.5 of AO. 2021-0019.
8. Other provisions of AO No. 2021-0019 shall still be in effect.

For information and guidance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



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ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team