



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

December 24, 2021

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2021- 0545

**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)**

Department Memorandum No. 2021-0478, titled "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)," dated October 14, 2021, identified five regions, namely: CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Davao, MIMAROPA and Northern Mindanao, in the pilot run of the decentralization of licensing and regulation of level 2 general hospitals starting January 1, 2022.

To fully implement the decentralization of levels 2 and 3 general hospitals, all CHD-RLEDs were advised to continuously hire personnel based on the number and competency identified in their gaps, with these hired personnel satisfactorily passing all the online modules on decentralization given by the DOH Academy. HFSRB requested an updated self-evaluation, to assess the readiness of the CHD-RLEDs, submitted to HFSRB on December 15, 2021, based on the criteria in Annex B of AO No. 2021-0019.

After review of the submitted self-assessment tools, the following are the additional guidelines to DM. No. 2021-0478:

1. Starting January 1, 2022:
  - a) RLEDs in CHD Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon shall handle applications for permit to construct (PTC) and license to operate (LTO) of levels 2 and 3 general hospitals including add-on services, within their jurisdictions or their area of responsibilities.
  - b) RLED in CHD Metro Manila shall handle applications for permit to construct (PTC) and license to operate (LTO) of levels 2 general hospitals including add-on services, within their jurisdictions or their area of responsibilities.

2. Regulation of levels 2 and 3 general hospitals in the other regions shall still remain with HFSRB.
3. A self-evaluation shall be carried out quarterly by the DOH CHD-RLED starting March 31, 2022, until full implementation of the decentralization of levels 2 and 3 general hospitals for all CHD-RLEDs have been achieved. The criteria to be used shall still be based on Annex B of AO No. 2021-0019.
4. For RT-PCR based COVID-19 testing laboratories, applications for PTC and applications for initial and renewal of LTO, shall be submitted to HFSRB until such time that the CHD-RLEDs have undergone and passed the capacity building for the said facility.
5. Applications for PTC and LTO for new and emerging facilities (e.g. Cancer Treatment Facilities and Mental Health Facilities) shall also be submitted to HFSRB until such time that the CHD-RLEDs have undergone and passed the capacity building for the said facility.
6. Other provisions of AO No. 2021-0019 and DM No. 2021-0478 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