



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

26 March 2018

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR
NO. ~~2018-off~~ 2013-0132-A

TO : ALL DOH REGIONAL DIRECTORS, CHIEFS OF HOSPITALS/ CENTERS/ SANITARIA, REGIONAL BLOOD PROGRAM COORDINATORS, BLOOD BANK HEADS, LEAD BLOOD SERVICE FACILITIES, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment to Department Circular No. 2013-0132 dated March 19, 2013 entitled "National Council for Blood Services - Technical Committee Recommendations, Strategies, Methodologies and Algorithms for Testing Blood Units for Transfusion Transmissible Infection"

In order to provide safe and adequate blood units for patients, the National Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP) aims at quality assured testing for Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTIs).

The technical specifications of the TTI reagents were approved by the NCBS Executive Committee as recommended by the National Council for Blood Services (NCBS) Technical Committee where the National Reference Laboratory – San Lazaro Hospital/ STD AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (NRL-SLH/SACCL) is an active member and are at the same time responsible for the evaluations of reagent kits for testing of blood units / samples.


The Department Circular No. 2013-0132 dated 19 March 2013 entitled "National Council for Blood Services – Technical Committee Recommendations, Strategies, Methodologies and Algorithms for Testing Blood Units for Transfusion Transmissible Infection" is hereby amended to reflect the following changes:

From		To		
	Sensitivity and Specificity		Sensitivity	Specificity
HIV	Strategies and Recommendations item No. 6: The minimum evaluated sensitivity and specificity levels of all assays used for blood screening shall be as high as possible and preferably not less than 99.5%	HIV	99.5%	99% or higher
HBV		HBV	99.5%	99% or higher
HCV		HCV	99.5%	99% or higher
SY		SY	99.5%	99% or higher

All other provisions of Department Circular No. 2013-0132 not affected by this amendment still stand in effect.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



HERMINIGILDO V. VALLE, MD, MPA
Undersecretary of Health
Technical Services Cluster