



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

3 August 2018

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2018 - 0324

TO : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, CENTERS OF HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, SERVICES AND SPECIALTY HOSPITALS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS AND HOSPITALS; AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Towards 100% Voluntary Blood Donation by 2020 for Blood Safety, Patient Safety and Quality Care

Blood purposed for human transfusion only comes from fellow human beings; the blood donors, specifically voluntary blood donors. Pursuant to Republic Act 7719, An Act Promoting Voluntary Blood Donation, Providing for an Adequate Supply of Safe Blood, Regulating Blood Banks, and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof, voluntary blood donation by the citizenry shall be promoted and encouraged to instill public consciousness of the principle that blood donation is a humanitarian act.

The World Health Organization (WHO) along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and a number of other international and national organizations recommend that all blood donations should be voluntary and non-remunerated and that no coercion should be brought to bear upon the donor to donate.

A Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donor (VNRBD) is defined by WHO as a donor who gives blood, plasma or cellular components of his or her own free will and receives no payment, either in the form of cash or in kind which could be considered as substitute for money including time off work other than that reasonably needed for the donation and travel.

The WHO analysis in 2010 showed that countries with 100% voluntary blood donation have a higher proportion of regular blood donors which had been maintained over a number of years. Thus, to ensure blood safety as a critical component of Patient Safety and Quality care, priority shall be given for the education, recruitment and retention of low risk donors to create a pool of regular, repeat voluntary blood donors.

Furthermore, it is recognized that the safest blood for transfusion is donated by VNRBDs, since prevalence of Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTIs) among this group is low. Therefore, elimination of family/replacement ("hidden paid blood donors") and paid donor systems, which are associated with higher prevalence of blood-borne infections, must likewise be given priority.

The Administrative Order No. 2010-0001 on Policies and Guidelines for the Philippine National Blood Services (PNBS) and the Blood Services Network (BSN) was issued to support the global initiative for voluntary blood donation. Section VI.B.1 of AO No. 2010-0001 states that "Blood shall be collected from voluntary non-remunerated blood donors only. There shall be no payments in cash or kind. To ensure vigorous and sustained voluntary blood donation, advocacy/campaign shall be intensified".

While, Section H.1 of the same AO promotes adequacy, "Blood and Blood products shall be made available at all times. The availability of blood and blood products is the shared responsibility among the attending physicians, the community and the management of the health facilities i.e. hospitals and blood service facilities."

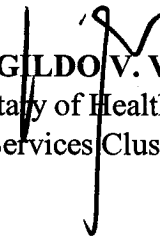
The Department of Health - National Voluntary Blood Services Program (DOH-NVBSP) conforms to these WHO principles of quality and safety of blood and enjoins everyone to support the global framework for action towards 100% voluntary blood donation with the following goals:

- A: Create an enabling environment for 100% voluntary non-remunerated blood donation
- B: Foster a culture of voluntary blood donation
- C: Build and maintain a safe, sustainable voluntary donor base
- D: Provide quality donor service and care

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


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