



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 3, 2018

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2018- 0405

TO : **ALL HEADS OF CENTRAL OFFICE BUREAUS, REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICES, SPECIALTY HOSPITALS/ MEDICAL CENTERS/ HOSPITALS/ SANITARIA, REGIONAL BLOOD PROGRAM COORDINATORS, REGULATION LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND OTHER CONCERNED.**

SUBJECT: **Personnel Requirements for Blood Centers**

Republic Act No. 7719, also known as the “National Blood Services of 1994”, declared that it is the policy of the state to provide for adequate, safe, affordable and equitable distribution of blood and blood products. Likewise, the same issuance mandated the Department of Health 1) to establish and organize a National Blood Transfusion Service Network to rationalize and improve the provision of adequate and safe supply of blood, and 2) to regulate and ensure the safety of all activities related to the collection, storage and banking of blood.

To carry out the provisions of the said Act, Administrative Order No. 2008 – 0008, “Rules and Regulations Governing the Blood Service Facilities,” was issued to ensure that licensed blood service facilities have adequate staff, equipment and resources to perform all the required functions safely, efficiently and effectively.

As of December 31, 2017 the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) data show that there are 32 licensed blood centers nationwide. Twenty four (24) of which are under the Philippine Red Cross (with range of collection from 2,000 to 27,000 units per year), while four (4) are under the DOH (with range of collection from 15,000 to 45,000 units per year) and the remaining four (4) are under the Local Government Units (with range of collection from 7,000 to 20,000 units per year).

A revised assessment tool was issued through Department Circular 2018-0039, “Revised Assessment Tool for Licensing Blood Service Facilities” to make the tool more consistent with the implementing guidelines of A.O. 2008 – 0008. After thorough review of the assessment tool, the previous requirement of nine (9) Registered Medical Technologist (RMT) for Blood Center was still retained in the revised assessment tool, which was approved by the National Council for Blood Services Executive Committee (NCBS ExeCom).

However, in consideration of the existing blood centers which could not comply with the number of RMT, as it may affect the adequacy of blood supply in the country, the minimum licensing requirement of 9 RMTs for blood centers was again reviewed.


In Resolution No. 61 Series of 2018 by the Health Executive Committee, dated 20th of June 2018, the following standards of blood centers shall now be in effect:

1. During the interim period the following are required from the blood centers:
 - a. Six (6) RMTs in blood centers shall be allowed provided that they will be using fully-automated testing machines for serology and immunohematology.
 - b. The blood centers shall participate twice a year in the External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) starting 2019 and shall consistently receive a passing rate.
2. The HFSRB and the Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Division of the Regional Offices (RO-RLEDs) shall strengthen their monitoring activities for violations in the aforementioned issuances related to Blood Service Facilities.

Blood center owners must adhere to existing laws (Republic Act No. 5527 “Philippine Medical Technology Act of 1969”) that only RMTs shall perform the serology and immunohematology testing which shall include the blood typing, hemoglobin and/or hematocrit determination of the blood donors during mass blood donation; and to the detailed standards, criteria and requirements prescribed in the revised assessment tool of the BSF. Further, blood centers shall supply adequate blood to blood stations and blood banks within its jurisdiction.

Any BSF found to violate this issuance and other related issuances shall be penalized and sanctioned accordingly.

For strict compliance.


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Secretary of Health