



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 3, 2018

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2018- 0406

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

SUBJECT: Provision of Blood and Blood Products to Patients of Health Facilities

A provision from Republic Act No. 7719, also known as the "National Blood Services of 1994", mandated the Department of Health to establish and to organize a National Blood Transfusion Service Network to rationalize and to improve the provision of adequate and safe supply of blood in the country. Hence, the Blood Services Network (BSN) was established to provide the blood needs of a specific geographical area through the enactment of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, Administrative Order No. 2008 – 0008, "Rules and Regulations Governing the Regulation of Blood Service Facilities."

Section V of the said A.O. states that every Blood Service Facility (BSF) shall be an integral part of a Blood Services Network (BSN) and guided by administrative issuances governing the establishment and operation of blood services networks. Moreover, a BSF is also required to provide services that meets the needs of clients, service providers and other stakeholders. Furthermore, Administrative Order 2012 – 0012, "Rules and Regulations in the New Classification of Hospitals and Other Health Facilities," mandated all general hospitals to have a BSF according to its level as part of the minimum requirements prior to the issuance of license.

However, the Bureau continue to receive complaints from patients and their relatives that there are hospitals that could not provide blood to their patients on time due to lack of blood supply. In addition, these hospitals ask the patients and/or their relatives to coordinate and procure the needed blood from other BSF.


Relative thereto, all BSF, whether hospital or non-hospital based shall be:

1. Part of the BSN and must submit a Certificate of Inclusion as proof of such.

2. Responsible in the coordination with the other licensed or authorized BSFs to look for blood supply in compliance with biosafety and biosecurity policy. Coordination with other BSFs and procurement of blood units shall NOT be shouldered by the patients and/or their relatives.
3. Accountable in updating daily its inventory of blood units/reserved to keep track the available supply for emergency and elective cases.

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

For strict compliance.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health