Republic of the Philippines

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

<date>02/22/2013</date>

<doctype>ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER</doctype>

<docnum>No. 2006- 0026-A</docnum>

<subject>SUBJECT: Amendment to Administrative Order No. 2006-0026 on the Implementing Guidelines in the Conduct of National Tuberculosis Control Program - Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (NTP-DOTS) Certification.</subject>

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Since the adoption of the Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) Strategy in 1996, significant progress in addressing the Tuberculosis (TB) burden has been achieved by the National TB Control Program (NTP). The steady rise on programmatic indicators namely Case Detection Rate (CDR), Treatment Success Rate (TSR) and Cure" Rate (CR) since 2004 testifies to the Department of Health's (DOH) continuing commitment to improve health care delivery nationwide. However more effort is still required to expand and sustain these gains in view of attaining the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets of 2015, as espoused by Administrative Order (AO) No. 2010-0036 "The Aquino Health Agenda. Achieving Universal Health Care for All Filipinos" or "Kalusugan Pangkalahatan (KP)" which underscores the government's commitment towards quality and affordable health care where diseases such as TB could be managed to the extent of minimizing health and financial risks to the general public, especially to the marginalized sector of society.

Within the context of the Health Sector Reform Agenda the 2010 - 2016 Philippine Plan of Action (PhilPACT) has been developed to provide a roadmap in pursuing an effective implementation of NTP-DOTS strategy by adopting a collective and multi-sectoral approach towards the achievement of TB targets linked to MDGs and the National Objectives for Health (NOH) on TB Disease Prevention and Control. PhilPACT is officially promulgated by DOH as AO No. 2010-0031 "Adoption of the 2010-2016 Philippine Plan of Action to Control Tuberculosis and Its Implementing Structures". PhilPACT prescribes eight strategies to serve its mandate, among them is Strategy 7 which specifies the need for certification and accreditation of TB Care providers. Under this strategy, PhilPACT aims to ensure that a TB-DOTS Facility is capable of providing safe and effective TB-DOTS Services to TB patients by ensuring that core standards of TB Care are met.

AO No. 2006 - 0026 "Implementing Guidelines in the" Conduct of the National TB Control Program - Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (NTP-DOTS) Certification established the guidelines and procedures in the conduct of NTP-DOTS Certification among public and private DOTS facilities, specifically for assessing the quality of TB-DOTS implementation. It also institutionalized the systems and procedures for Sentrong Sigla certification and PhilHealth accreditation of DOTS facilities in view of facilitating the availment of PhilHealth OPD-TB DOTS Benefit Package (PhilHealth Circular No. 19 s. 2003). With PhilPACT implementation, public and private collaboration was expanded to mobilize and maximize a wide network of resources towards the attainment of PhilPACT goals. The Reconstitution of National and Regional Coordinating Committees on Public and Private Mix DOTS (NCC/RCC-PPMD) into National and Regional Coordinating Committees for NTP (NCC/RCC-NTP) was bourne out of the evolving functions of stakeholders within the PhilPACT scheme. In view thereof, it is thus necessary to amend the existing guidelines on DOTS Certification, which pre-date the formulation of PhilPACT, to accommodate the renewed roles and responsibilities of all implementing agencies, public and private, on the DOTS Certification process.

This Order stipulates the revised provisions on the certification of TB-DOTS centers/facilities in the public and private sector. As embodied in AO No. 2006-0026, this Order shall likewise ensure the availability of and access to quality NTP services following a set of core standards. This Order further aims to expedite the certification process by adopting a decentralized and sector-wide approach in the implementation of TB-DOTS certification, in consonance with the reconstitution of the National and Regional Coordinating Committees for NTP. More importantly, it sets out the national Strategy and policies to achieve a reliable "brand" for NTP where all components of DOTS implementation are quality assured leading to well defined outputs, in fulfillment of KP and PhilPACT goals and objectives towards a strengthened NTP.

In view of the aforementioned, AO No. 2006-0026 is hereby amended as follows

Section V - PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES (Annex 1)

C. CERTIFICATION CYCLE

2. Procedures

c. The team shall furnish each facility a written response of their final decision about the certification process conducted. They shall provide the facility the "Summary Report on DOTS Certification" that shall briefly describe the visit, the team's rating per standard; and shall indicate whether the facility is DOTS certified or needs re-assessment. The same report shall also be forwarded to the Regional Coordinating Committee for NTP (RCC-NTP) for registration and issuance of the DOTS Certificate. The certification of the DOTS facility will be valid for three years.

D. REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE CYCLE

The registration and issuance cycle covers the period where the DOTS facilities, both certified and thoSe for re-assessment are registered in the register at the RCC-NTP. This cycle is also the time allotted for the preparation of the official DOTS Certificate intended for those qualified facilities. RCC-NTP shall be responsible for the over-all TB-DOTS Certification process. Registration and issuance of DOTS certificates are done by RCC-NTP upon its receipt of the summary report from the respective certifying team from each CHD.

1. Procedures

a. Upon receipt of the summary reports from the certifying team, the RCC-NTP secretariat registers the various facilities (whether certified or for re-assessment) in the main registry on DOTS certification. Each facility registered is assigned a registration number to easily track their certification status. However, a certification number is assigned only to those facilities that qualify in the DOTS certification. The main registry is maintained by the TB Unit in each CHD, which shall act as Secretariat for RCC-NTP.

b. For those Certified facilities, the RCC-NTP secretariat shall automatically issue the official quality certificate or the, "Certificate of Quality Service on DOTS" after the RCC-NTP has reviewed and approved the final results of assessment. The certificate shall bear the logo of DOH, PhilCAT, CHD and partner agencies concerned, duly signed by the Chair and Co-chair of RCC-NTP and dry-sealed for authenticity. Annex 2 "Certificate of Quality Service on DOTS" prescribes the standard format for the TB-DOTS Certificate. Likewise, a congratulatory note is attached to encourage the facility in their application for accreditation.

e. Every monthly meeting of the RCC-NTP, the body shall review and update the status of DOTS certification, for coordination with the central/regional PhilHealth.

f. RCC-NTP shall report the total number of certified facilities in their region to NCC-NTP on a quarterly basis.

Section VI - IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

1. DOH

a. NCC-NTP

The entire provisions under this section shall be changed as follows:

a.1. Receive and consolidate reports on the number of DOTS facilities certified by respective RCC-NTP in each region,

a.2. Serve as an oversight body in resolving issues and concerns beyond the jurisdiction of RCC-NTP.

a.3. Conduct joint-monitoring of TB-DOTS centers/facilities with concerned parties as needed.

b. RCC-NTP

The entire provisions under this section shall be changed as follows:

b.1. Oversee the certification process at the regional level.

b.2. Identify and designate the members of the certifying team.

b.3. Review and approve the final results of assessment by the certifying team.

b.4. Mediate concerns should the certifying team fail to come up with a concrete decision on the approval for certification.

b.5. Issue the "Certificate on Quality Service on DOTS", duly signed by the Chair and Co-chair of RCC-NTP and affixed with the committee's dry seal.

b.6. Update the Status of DOTS certification to facilitate PhilHealth accreditation.

b.7. Maintain an official register of all certified DOTS facilities in the region and submit a quarterly report of the number of facilities certified to NCC-NTP.

b.8. Recommend / designate a representative from the private sector and appoint a substitute in the absence or unavailability thereof.

b.9. Conduct joint-monitoring of TB-DOTS centers/facilities with concerned parties as needed.

e. Certifying team

e.1. Validate the findings of the facility on-site based on the accomplished Self-Assessment Form (SAF).

e.2. Recommend to RCC-NTP whether the facility shall be given approval for DOTS certification or shall be recommended for re-assessment.

e.3. Prepare a written report detailing the team's findings, rating per standard and the team's overall decision; and submit a copy to the health facility and RCC-NTP.

All other provisions of AO No. 2006-0026 not affected by the aforementioned amendments shall remain valid and in effect.

EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect immediately.

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<sign>ENRIQUE T. ONA, MD, FPCS, FACS</sign>

<signtitle>Secretary of Health</signtitle>

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