



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

08 August 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0312

TO : ALL DOH UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BARMM; ALL DIRECTORS OF CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, BUREAUS AND OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT; MEDICAL CENTER CHIEFS AND DIRECTORS OF DOH MEDICAL CENTERS, SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA; REGIONAL BLOOD PROGRAM COORDINATORS; HEADS AND BLOOD BANK HEADS OF BLOOD SERVICE FACILITIES; LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) BLOOD PROGRAM COORDINATORS; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Reiteration of National Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP) Issuances Concerning No Paid Donation for Conventional Donation, Apheresis Donation, and Convalescent Plasma Donations

This time of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, many blood service facilities opted to collect blood and blood products from family/replacement donation and some paid donations just to provide the needed blood and blood products for their patients. We commend their dedication to help their patients, but this is against our goal in phasing-out family/replacement and paid donations as these are not the safest source for blood and blood products that will be transfused to patients.

Pursuant to the Republic Act No. 7719 also known as the “National Blood Service Act of 1994”, all blood and blood products shall be collected from volunteer blood donors only. Paid donation is not allowed, facilities who will pay blood donors shall be penalized according to the DOH Administrative Order No. 36 series of 1994 Chapter VII, Section 26 and Chapter VIII, Section 41.

Furthermore, stated in the DOH Administrative Order No. 36 series of 1994 Chapter IV, Section 12 in the establishment of Blood Services Network (BSN) is the “Formulation of a design of an effective blood donor recruitment campaign, sustained blood collection and equitable distribution scheme to include the concept of clearing house for the region and sharing of blood bank facilities”, all blood service facilities (BSFs) shall network for the BSN where they belong for available blood and blood products needed by their patients. Such BSFs shall not require patients nor their relatives to procure the blood and blood products needed by the patient as this is the task of the BSF.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends collection of blood and blood products from volunteer blood donors as they are the population with the lowest prevalence of Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTIs) that may be transfused to patients compared to unsafe paid donors as cited in the DOH Department Circular No. 2018-0324 "Towards 100% Voluntary Blood Donation by 2020 for Blood Safety, Patient Safety and Quality Care".

In 2006, the Department Memorandum No. 2006-0138 "Implementation of the Closure of Commercial Blood Banks pursuant to the Supreme Court Ruling", stated that one of the strategies during the implementation to ensure that supply of safe blood was "Intensified community-based or walk-in voluntary blood donations and phase-out hospital blood replacement/patient-directed donations due to the risk of hidden paid donors".


Moreover, the Republic Act No. 11032 "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018", under Sec. 21 *Violations and Persons Liable* the following provisions if violated is punishable by law:

- (c) Imposition of additional costs not reflected in the Citizen's Charter;
- (g) Failure or refusal to issue official receipts; and
- (h) **Fixing and/or collusion with fixers in consideration of economic and/or other gain or advantage**

We highly encourage everyone to work with us hand-in-hand to convert family/replacement donation and paid donation to voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. Let us strengthen the donor recruitment campaign and public education to attain behavioral change among Filipinos that the safest source of blood and blood products came from volunteer blood donors. The Center for Health Development through the Regional Blood Program Coordinator shall maximize and reinforce the established BSN for efficient and effective mode of coordination among BSFs for the provision and networking of blood and blood products.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


MYRNA C. CABOTAJE, MD, MPH, CESO III
Undersecretary of Health
Public Health Services Team