



Republic of the Philippines
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2015-01
Series of 2015

SUBJECT: Policies and Guidelines on the Conduct of Medical Residency and Fellowship Training Program for Foreign Medical Professionals in the Philippines

WHEREAS, Section 14 Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the practice of all professions in the Philippines shall be limited to Filipino citizens, save in cases provided for by law;

WHEREAS, the scope of the "practice of medicine" includes medical residency and fellowship training, pursuant to Section 10 Article III of Republic Act No. 2382, otherwise known as the Medical Act of 1959, and Board Resolution No. 2014-02;

WHEREAS, Article I and Article III of R. A. No. 2382 vest upon the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine (PRBOM) the authority to supervise, control and regulate the practice of medicine, including the conduct of medical residency and fellowship training for foreign medical professionals in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Section 7 (c) of R. A. No. 8981, otherwise known as the PRC Modernization Act of 2000, mandates the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to review, revise and approve resolutions embodying policies promulgated by the Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs) in the exercise of their powers and functions or in implementing the laws regulating their respective professions and other official actions on non-ministerial matters within their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH), by virtue of Section 12 Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, has the legal mandate to undertake appropriate health manpower development and research activities that are responsive to the country's health needs and problems;

WHEREAS, the DOH also serves as technical oversight agency in charge of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of health programs, projects, research, training and services; and by virtue of Executive Order No. 102 ('Redirecting the Functions and Operations of the Department of Health'), has the power to: "Ensure quality of training and health human resource development at all levels of the health care system";

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide guidelines and mechanisms for foreign medical professionals (FMPs) who will undergo medical residency and/or fellowship training in the Philippines;

NOW THEREFORE, WE, the respective heads of the Professional Regulation Commission and the Department of Health, by virtue of the powers vested in us by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby issue and promulgate the Policies and Guidelines on the Conduct of Medical Residency and Fellowship Training Program for Foreign Medical Professionals in the Philippines.

SECTION 1. Committee on Training Programs for Foreign Medical Professionals (CTPFMP) – A Committee on Training Programs for Foreign Medical Professionals (CTPFMP) shall be created. It shall be composed of the Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) or his/her representative as Chairperson, the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) or his/her representative as Co-Chairperson, with the following Members: the Chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board of Medicine (PRBOM), one (1) representative from the specialty division of the accredited professional organization (APO), one (1) representative from the eight (8) specialty societies to be designated from among the societies on a rotational basis and one (1) representative from the specialty society of the FMP being evaluated.

The CTPFMP shall be responsible for the planning and monitoring of the implementation of medical residency and fellowship training programs for FMPs. Its functions shall include, but shall not be limited to, prescribing the (1) criteria for admission to the qualifying assessment; and (2) guidelines in the accreditation of participating training hospitals.

The CTPFMP shall ensure that the national interest will be protected and that no Filipino medical professional will be prejudiced. FMPs shall comprise not more than forty percent (40%) of the total number of medical professionals for medical residency and fellowship training in one (1) training hospital.

There shall be constituted a Secretariat to provide the necessary administrative and staff support to the CTPFMP.

SECTION 2. Role of the PRBOM and PRC – The PRBOM shall 1) accept and evaluate applications for Temporary Training Permits (TTPs); 2) administer qualifying assessment procedures for FMPs; 3) issue, suspend or cancel TTPs upon approval of the PRC; and 4) secure from the specialty societies the list of institutions with good performance in the certifying examination.

The names of the FMPs who have pending applications for TTPs as well as those who have been issued TTPs shall be entered in the PRC Registry of FMPs which may be accessed through the PRC website.

SECTION 3. Role of the Department of Health – The DOH shall, in coordination with the CTPFMP, supervise and monitor the implementation of the medical residency and fellowship training programs in all participating accredited training hospitals.

SECTION 4. Qualifying Assessment Procedures – An FMP who will undergo medical residency training in the Philippines shall comply with all the

requirements and qualifying assessment procedures that will be administered by the PRBOM. However, an FMP who will undergo fellowship training or who will proceed from residency to fellowship training shall not be required to undergo another assessment.

SECTION 5. Issuance of Temporary Training Permit – An FMP who has complied with all the requirements for the medical residency training shall be issued a TTP. An FMP who has secured a TTP for medical residency shall be issued another TTP if he/she is qualified to proceed to the fellowship training program.

The TTP shall be valid for a period co-terminus with the medical residency and/or fellowship training, unless sooner suspended or revoked for cause.

SECTION 6. Oppositions/Objections to the Issuance of the Temporary Training Permit (TTP)

6.1 Prior to the Issuance of the TTP. Any person with reasonable ground/s to oppose a pending application for TTP may file a verified complaint with the PRBOM within fifteen (15) days from the posting of the names of the applicants in the PRC website.

6.2 After the Issuance of TTP. Any person with reasonable ground/s to oppose/object to the issuance of a TTP may file a verified complaint with the PRC Legal and Investigation Division within fifteen (15) days from the posting of the list of approved applications in the PRC website.

SECTION 7. Incomplete or Disapproved/Denied Applications for the Temporary Training Permit (TTP) –

7.1 For Incomplete Applications. An FMP shall have fifteen (15) days from receipt of the Notice of Deficiency to submit the complete documentary requirements.

7.2 For Disapproved/Denied Applications. An FMP shall have fifteen (15) days from receipt of Notice of Disapproval/Denial to file a Motion for Reconsideration (MR) with the PRBOM.

SECTION 8. Suspension or Cancellation of the Temporary Training Permit. The PRBOM may, *motu proprio* or upon a verified complaint, suspend or cancel the TTP, subject to the existing rules of administrative procedure of the PRC.

SECTION 9. Appeals to the CTPFMP- Any adverse judgment rendered under Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Joint Administrative Order may be appealed to the CTPFMP within fifteen (15) days from the notice of judgment appealed from.

SECTION 10. Issuance of the Certificates of Completion or Specialization-

10.1 Certificates of Completion. An FMP who has completed the prescribed medical residency and/or fellowship training shall be issued a Certificate of Completion signed by the Training Officer, Chairperson of the Department, and Medical Director/Chief of the Hospital.

10.2 Certificates of Specialization. An FMP who passes the certifying specialty board examination administered by the pertinent specialty board shall be issued a Certificate of Specialization signed by the Chairperson of PRC, Secretary of the DOH, Chairperson of the PRBOM and the Chairperson of the Specialty Board.

SECTION 11. Transitory Provisions. All existing medical residency and fellowship training programs accredited by the respective specialty boards/societies prior to the effectivity of this Joint Administrative Order shall be recognized by the CTPFMP.

A. For Foreign Medical Professionals

11.1 Those who have completed the medical residency and/or fellowship training program from an accredited training program and who have passed the certifying board examination may apply for a Certificate of Specialization to be conferred the title "Diplomate".

11.2 Those who have completed the medical residency and/or fellowship training from a non-accredited training program shall not be allowed to take the certifying examination.

11.3 Those who are currently undergoing a non-accredited medical residency and/or fellowship training program shall be evaluated by the accreditation body of the respective specialty boards/societies for re-alignment, equivalence, recognition and will accordingly be advised to transfer to an accredited training institution.

B. For the Hospitals

11.4 For Non-Accredited Hospitals. Non-accredited hospitals shall be required to apply for accreditation with their respective specialty boards/societies within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Joint Administrative Order. However, these hospitals shall be allowed to finish their training contracts with FMPs who are in their final year of training.

11.5 For Accredited Training Hospitals. All accredited training hospitals shall be included in the roster of participating accredited training hospitals of the CTPFMP.

SECTION 12. Implementing Guidelines – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Joint Administrative Order, the PRC and the DOH, in consultation with relevant government agencies and stakeholder organizations,

shall formulate and issue the guidelines to implement the provisions of this Joint Administrative Order.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause - All orders, resolutions and other related issuances of the PRC and DOH that are in conflict with the provisions of this Joint Administrative Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity - This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Done in the city of Manila this 8th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.


FLORENTINO C. DOBLE, M.D.
Chairman
Professional Regulation Commission


JANETTE L. GARIN, M. D., MBA, H
Secretary
Department of Health

O-CH/COMMI/COMMII/PRBOM/PRBSEC/LGL
FCD/ATCC/YDR/MHN/LTB/ER2/PLM

