



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 3, 2018

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2018 - 0348

TO: ALL HEADS OF CENTRAL OFFICE BUREAUS, REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICE DIRECTORS, REGIONAL OFFICE – REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (RO-RLED) CHIEFS, REGULATORY OFFICERS, CHIEF OF HOSPITALS/ SPECIALTY HOSPITALS/ MEDICAL CENTERS/ SANITARIA, BLOOD SERVICE FACILITIES HEADS, REGIONAL BLOOD PROGRAM COORDINATORS, LEAD BLOOD SERVICE FACILITIES AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Reiteration of the No Re-testing Policy of Blood Units and the Set Maximum Allowable Service Fees for Whole Blood and Blood Components in Blood Service Facilities

Section 2.i and 2.k of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7719 otherwise known as the “National Blood Services Act of 1994”, states that all blood collection units and blood bank/ center shall operate on a non-profit basis; and that the Department of Health (DOH) shall regulate and ensure the safety of all activities related to the collection, storage, and banking of blood.

These provisions were re-stated in Section V.A.6 of A.O. 2008-0008 titled “Rules and Regulation Governing the Regulation of Blood Service Facilities”, dated May 2, 2008, that “All units of blood issued by the Philippine Blood Center (BC), Sub-national BCs, Regional BCs, and Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) under the Philippine National Blood Services Network shall not be retested for Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTIs) by the end-user hospitals and other health facilities. It is the responsibility of the issuing BCs to ensure that all units of blood issued have been tested and found to be negative for TTIs.”

Moreover, A.O. No. 2015-0045 titled “New Maximum Allowable Service Fees for Whole Blood and Blood Components in Blood Service Facilities” dated October 26, 2015, sets the maximum allowable fees for all blood components. This was also reiterated in Department Circular No. 2016-0318 dated November 9, 2016.

In view of the foregoing, all Blood Service Facilities are hereby reminded to strictly adhere to these DOH policies, specifically on the following:


1. NO RETESTING for TTIs to all blood units; and

2. Charging of blood components in accordance to the maximum allowable service fees, to wit;

Whole Blood	Php 1,800.00
Packed Red Blood Cells	Php 1,500.00
Other Blood Components (Platelet Concentrate, Fresh Frozen Plasma, Cryoprecipitate, Cryosupernate)	Php 1,000.00

Blood Service Facilities found to be violating the said orders shall be meted out with appropriate sanctions.

For strict compliance.


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