



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 9, 2021

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2021 - 0127

TO: ALL DIRECTORS OF DOH CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGIONS IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM) REGIONAL MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA; AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Designation of Select Hospitals as the Training Hubs for the Implementation of the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Blended Learning Program Framework for Hospitals

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) as a growing public health concern that prolongs illnesses thereby increasing the risk of death, hampers the control of infectious diseases, increases health care costs, jeopardizes healthcare gains to the society, and poses threat to health security which can negatively affect trade and damage economies. In response to this, the Department of Health (DOH), through the Pharmaceutical Division (PD), issued the Administrative Order No. 2019-0002 entitled, "*Implementing Guidelines on the Philippine Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Program for Hospitals,*" to define the overall framework and strategic directions of the national AMS implementation that aims to promote rational use of antimicrobials as well as to mitigate and prevent the spread of AMR in the Philippines.

In 2016, the AMS Manual of Procedures (MOP) was developed and this was followed by a series of AMS training roll-outs since December of the same year. The AMS program involves employing systematic public health interventions to optimize clinical outcomes in both public and private hospitals. In 2019, the AMS program was cascaded to the Level I hospitals as well as to the remaining Level II hospitals which have yet to be trained. In 2020, the cascading of the AMS program to the remaining Level I and II hospitals was postponed in view of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that prohibits mass gathering and face-to-face interactions, and which has also caused re-alignment of funds for COVID response.

Cognizant that antibiotic overuse and misuse in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic may potentially exacerbate the AMR situation in the country and may put stewardship efforts at risk, the DOH acknowledged the more urgent need to implement AMS principles amid the pandemic in order to mitigate the unintended long-term consequences associated with the irrational use of antibiotics during this time. With technical and funding assistance from the WHO Country Office and in partnership with the DOH Academy, the DOH-Pharmaceutical Division redesigned and transformed the AMS training program to a blended learning framework with asynchronous (online modules) and synchronous learning sessions to adapt to the new normal, taking advantage of the online platforms.

To further cascade the AMS training program and to capacitate the remaining Levels I, II and III hospitals on how to establish an AMS program in their own health facilities, several batches of AMS online training will be carried out this year. To support the program, including the roll-out and implementation of the AMS Blended Learning Program Framework for Hospitals, the DOH has identified the following hospitals to serve as AMS training hubs for 2021:

1. Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC);
2. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH);
3. Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital (JBLMRH);
4. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM); and,
5. Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC).

The functions of the AMS training hubs shall include the following:

1. Facilitate and organize the conduct of the AMS Blended Learning Program Framework for hospitals.
2. Manage administrative matters related to the conduct of the activity, including the management and disbursement of funds and coordination with the participants.
3. Perform secretariat functions which may include, but not limited, to the following:
 - a. Preparation, organization, and facilitation of the conduct of synchronous/live sessions for the identified list of hospitals assigned to the training hubs;
 - b. Selection and invitation of resource persons and/or facilitators;
 - c. Coordination with the assigned hospitals/learners, speakers and facilitators/trainers to register to the AMS Blended Learning Program Framework via the DOH Academy Learning Management System (LMS);
 - d. Check the list of registered participants and send reminder emails to hospitals on the requirements for the completion of the online training;
 - e. Provision of logistical support;

- f. Documentation of the training, including the issues raised during the training program; and,
 - g. Coordination with the DOH AMR secretariat for the pre- and post-training activities (including the preparation of necessary reports).
4. Submit sub-allotment utilization/liquidation report to the DOH on or before the 7th day of the following month to the DOH Finance Management Service (FMS), copy furnished the Pharmaceutical Division (PD).

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Online Learning Program Capacity Building Workbook for Trainers and Training Hubs is attached as Annex A, for ready reference.

For further details, please coordinate with the AMR Secretariat through email at amr@doh.gov.ph or through telephone number (02) 8-875-7734 local 268 and look for Ms. Johanna B. Mallari or Ms. Zheric Johnden Niño S. Dizon.

For your compliance. Thank you.

By Authority of Secretary of Health



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Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team