

**[JOINT DOST-PCHRD, DOH, CHED AND UPM-NIH
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 001, July 30, 2013]**

**THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC
ACT 10532 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM ACT OF 2013"**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10532, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Health Research System Act of 2013", became effective on 1 June 2013;

WHEREAS, the implementing institutions of the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS), namely, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Health, Commission on Higher Education and University of the Philippines Manila - National Institutes of Health have signed the following agreements on the development of the Philippine National Health Research System, to wit: Memorandum of Understanding dated 17 March 2003, 11 April 2007, 16 March 2009 and 10 August 2011;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III Section 15 of RA 10532, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, the Department of Health, the Commission on Higher Education and the University of the Philippines Manila-National Institutes of Health are mandated to issue and promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of Republic Act 10532;

NOW THEREFORE, the following Joint Administrative Order of the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Health, Commission on Higher Education and University of the Philippines Manila-National Institutes of Health covering the rules and regulations implementing Republic Act 10532 are hereby adopted and prescribed for the information and guidance of all concerned.

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Rule 1. Title. These Rules shall be known and cited as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10532, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Health Research System Act of 2013."

Rule 2. Purpose. These Rules are hereby promulgated to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the PNHRS Act in order to facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and convergence among all stakeholders and to achieve the objectives of the Act.

Rule 3. Construction and Interpretation. All doubts in the implementation, construction and interpretation of these implementing rules and regulations shall be resolved in favor of the principle of promoting cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders as well as the integration and convergence of all health research efforts

in the country to ensure that research contributes to evidence-informed health-related policies and actions.

Rule 4. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people, instill health consciousness among them and improve the quality of life of every Filipino through health research and development initiatives.

In pursuit of the above policy, it is the mission of the PNHRs to create and sustain an enabling environment for health research toward evidence-informed health-related policies and actions. Further, the PNHRs shall facilitate and enable the engagement of the stakeholders of the health research community.

Rule 5. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) *Act* shall refer to RA 10532.
- (b) *Health* shall refer to a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being and the ability to function at the individual level.
- (c) *Health Research Stakeholders* shall refer to the national and the local public and private agencies/organizations, policymakers, the academe, medical and health societies, people's organizations and others who are concerned with and affected by health and development.
- (d) *Health Research Community* shall refer to all stakeholders such as but not limited to policymakers, researchers, funders and/or advocates of research, users and/or beneficiaries of research results at local, national, and/or international levels.
- (e) *Health System* shall refer to: (i) all the activities whose primary purpose is to promote, restore and/or maintain health; and (ii) the people, institutions and resources, organized together in accordance with established policies, to improve the health of the population they serve, while responding to people's legitimate expectations and protecting them against the cost of ill-health through a variety of activities whose primary intent is to improve health
- (f) *International organizations* shall mean the following: (i) United Nations and its specialized agencies, (ii) ASEAN and its specialized agencies, (iii) international development and/or funding institutions recognized by the Philippine Government, and, (iv) all such other international organizations and/or institutions covered by a headquarters agreement and/or an international treaty signed by the Philippine Government.
- (g) *International Networks* shall mean both formal and informal linkages, collaborations, assistance, cooperation, information sharing and other similar activities with non-Filipino individuals or institutions and international organizations subject to existing constitutional and legal limitations and provisions.

- (h) *National Unified Health Research Agenda* shall refer to a set of research priorities determined by the country's stakeholders which addresses the health needs of the population vis-à-vis the health sector's goal for universal health care. This agenda is a platform to advocate for local, national and international support. The term National Health Research Agenda shall also have the same definition as the foregoing.
- (i) *Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)* shall refer to one of the sectoral planning councils of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) which provides central direction, leadership and coordination in health science and technology (S&T). PCHRD shall serve as the national coordinating body for health research.
- (j) *Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB)* shall refer to the national policymaking body on health research ethics, created under DOST Special Order No. 091, which is mandated to ensure that all phases of health research shall adhere to the universal ethical principles that value the protection and promotion of the dignity of health research participants.
- (k) *Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS)* shall refer to a framework anchored on the principles of Essential National Health Research on inclusiveness, participation, quality, equity, efficiency and effectiveness, which connect to, and converge with, the wider health, economic, political, educational and S&T systems of the country.
- (l) *Philippine National Health Research System Network* shall refer to public and private agencies and institutions which are members of the regional health research and development consortia.
- (m) *Regional Health Research Systems* shall include regional health research consortia or communities in all the regions of the country which mirror the PNHRS framework at the regional level.
- (n) *Research* shall refer to the development of knowledge with the aim of understanding health challenges and mounting an improved response to them. This covers the full spectrum of research in five (5) generic areas of activity: (1) measuring the problem; (2) understanding its cause(s); (3) elaborating solutions; (4) translating the solutions or evidence into policy, practice and products; and (5) evaluating the effectiveness of solutions.
- (o) "*Research for Health*" or "*Health research*" shall refer to the fact that improving health outcomes requires the involvement of many sectors and disciplines. As identified in the work of the Global Forum for Health Research, it is research that seeks to understand the impact of health policies, programmes, processes, actions, or events originating in any sector; to assist in developing interventions that will help prevent or mitigate the impact; and to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, health equity, and better health for all.

- (p) *Regional Unified Health Research Agenda* shall refer to a set of research priorities determined by the regional stakeholders which addresses the health needs of the population vis-à-vis the health sector's goal for universal health care. This agenda is a platform to advocate for local, national and international support.
- (q) *Rules* shall refer to these Rules and Regulations.
- (r) *Universal Health Care* shall refer to a focused approach to health reform implementation, ensuring that all Filipinos especially the poor receive the benefits of health reform. This is a deliberate focus on the poor to ensure that they are given financial risk protection through enrollment to PhilHealth and that they are able to access affordable and quality health care and services in times of need.

CHAPTER II

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM

Rule 6. *Institutionalization of the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS).* The PNHRS, initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding between the DOST and the Department of Health (DOH) in 2003, and in 2007, is hereby institutionalized within the mandate of the PCHRD, the national coordinating body for health research.

The 2007 Memorandum of Understanding was also signed by the Commission on Higher Education and the University of the Philippines Manila- National Institutes of Health.

Rule 7. *Objectives of the PNHRS.* The PNHRS aims to improve the health status, productivity and the quality of life of Filipinos by:

- (a) Ensuring that health research is linked to the health system needs;
- (b) Ensuring that investments in health research yield the most benefit;
Promoting good governance among health research
- (c) organizations through efficient, effective, transparent and ethical health research management system;
- (d) Engaging in national and international partnerships and networks for health research development; and,
- (e) (e) Ensuring sustainability of resources for health research.

In achieving these objectives, the PNHRS shall consider the provisions of existing laws.

Rule 8. *Formulation of Research Agenda.* The process in formulating the research agenda for the present and future requirements of the country's health system should consider alignment with societal goals in science and technology, education, the economy, environment, agriculture and other priority areas of the country. The national and regional research agenda shall be used as a strategic tool to direct research programs, funding priorities, and related activities.

Rule 9. *Determination of Benefit.* In ensuring that investments in health research will yield the most benefit, the health research should be anchored on the country's

health agenda and emerging health issues, result in improved health outcomes, and optimize the resources invested.

Rule 10. *Sustainability of Resources for Health Research.* To ensure sustainability of resources for health research and development, the PNHRs implementing institutions shall allocate in their respective annual budget as well as in their work and financial plan the appropriate resources to support the plans and programs of the PNHRs.

Public and private organizations who are members of the PNHRs Network shall likewise allocate in their respective annual budget as well as in their work and financial plan the appropriate resources to support the plans and programs of the PNHRs.

PNHRs shall tap other funding sources including any government revenues generated through various legal instruments or laws.

Public or private local, national or international institutions or organizations may contribute resources, such as funds, expertise, technical assistance, logistics, and facilities.

Rule 11. *Composition of the PNHRs.* The PNHRs shall be institutionalized within the mandate of the PCHRD, the national coordinating body for health research. It is composed of the Governing Council (GC), the Steering Committee, the Technical Working Committees (TWC) and the Secretariat, as described in Section 9 hereof. The whole health research community shall be deemed an indispensable partner and contributor in the effort to strengthen the PNHRs.

Rule 12. *The PNHRs Governing Council.* The PCHRD Governing Council, created under Executive Order (EO) No. 784 of 1982 and EO No. 128 of 1987, shall be the Governing Council of the PNHRs. The PNHRs Governing Council shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of the DOST, as Chair;
- (b) The Secretary of the DOH, as Co-Chair;
- (c) The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- (d) The Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Manila (UPM);
- (e) The National Nutrition Council Executive Director;
- (f) The PCHRD Executive Director; and
- (g) Five (5) representatives from the private sector.

Rule 13. *Private Sector Representatives.* The five (5) private sector representatives shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a term of two years. The criteria and terms of the appointment of four representatives shall be governed by EO 128, Section 16 while the fifth private sector representative shall represent a recognized health civil society organization.

Rule 14. *Meetings of the Governing Council.* The meetings of the PNHRs Governing Council shall follow the existing procedures of the PCHRD Governing Council.

Rule 15. *Powers and Functions of the PNHRs Governing Council.* The PNHRs Governing Council shall: