

**[DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 92 S. 2003,
September 22, 2003]**

**REVISED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON THE PRIVATE
PRACTICE OF MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN
GOVERNMENT HEALTH FACILITIES**

I. Rationale

The Department of Health encourages the employment of medical and paramedical personnel who are experts in their field of practice in various government hospitals and other government health facilities. Within the period of their employment in these government facilities, these practitioners are allowed the privilege of private practice.

Private practice is allowed as an incentive and in recognition of the medical and paramedical professionals' commitment to remain as members of the hospital staff for a longer period to bring about continuous quality improvement of the health care delivery service of the facility.

This permission on the private practice of medical and paramedical professionals in government health facilities is envisioned to attract the best and the brightest professionals for medical and paramedical positions, in order to 1) provide adequate quality medical care to patients especially the indigent; 2) teach, train and interact with the other medical and paramedical professionals and; 3) conduct relevant studies and research thereby enhancing the quality of medical and health care delivery systems.

In addition, the following are the expected benefits in allowing private practice of government medical and paramedical personnel in government hospitals and other health facilities:

1. The presence of Medical Specialists within the hospital during office hours, who otherwise would be in their other private clinics, ensures supervision and guidance of patient care at the time they are needed most.
2. The inputs from other government health professionals would further enrich and enhance the healthcare delivery system.
3. Resident trainees will be more closely supervised and thereto gain much from assisting consultants in the management of the consultants' private patients. They can learn medical evaluation and management which they would not otherwise experience.
4. The income generated from the use of hospital facilities by private patients will augment the hospital budget and promote self-sufficiency towards fiscal autonomy.

However, due to existing Civil Service regulations, administrative and ethical issues on medical and other paramedical practitioners in government facilities engaging in private practice became a major concern. There is a need to balance the need for these professionals and the expected benefits that the government health facilities will reap with the existing Civil Service regulations.

Therefore a set of policies and guidelines is hereby formulated to determine the coverage, limitation and responsibility of all concerned in the delivery of quality health care services.

II. Definition of Terms:

a) Private Practice - refers to clinical practice by which the health services rendered are paid and such payment is for the account of the practitioner.

b) Government Physician - a doctor of medicine, PRC registered and employed in government owned hospitals or public health facilities.

c) Fellows/Diplomates - are medical professionals who were certified by the relevant specialty society after complying with all the requirements set by the said society.

d) DOH Certified Medical Specialists - are medical professionals who were certified by the Department of Health until 1989 after meeting the requirements set by the Department.

e) Medical Specialist - a Doctor of Medicine; PRC registered with a certificate as Fellow and/or Diplomate of a relevant specialty society or a doctor who passed the Department of Health Medical Specialist Examination, given an appointment by the Secretary or his authorized official.

f) Visiting consultant - a Doctor of Medicine; PRC registered with a certificate as Fellow and/or Diplomate of a relevant specialty society or a doctor who passed the Department of Health Medical Specialist Examination, who has an approved appointment by the Secretary or his authorized official as a one peso/year Consultant in a DOH hospital or other government health facility and renders teaching, training as well as consultancy services.

g) Honorary Consultant - a Doctor of medicine; PRC registered with a certificate as Fellow and/or Diplomate of the relevant specialty society or a doctor who passed the Department of Health Medical Specialist Examination, and who has retired/resigned from a hospital plantilla position but with an approved appointment by the Secretary or his authorized official as a one peso/year consultant in a DOH hospital or other health facility, who renders teaching, training and consultancy services.

h) Dentist - a Doctor in Dentistry; and PRC registered.

i) Government paramedical professionals - allied professional health providers, duly registered with the PRC, such as Nurses, Midwives, Physical Therapists, Medical Technologist, Social Workers, Pharmacists and other technicians.

III. Scope:

This Order shall cover all physicians and other paramedical and allied professionals in government health facilities (DOH hospitals, LGU hospitals and other health facilities, central, regional or local).