

**[ DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2014-0024,  
July 15, 2014 ]**

**GUIDELINES ON MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT AND POOR  
PATIENTS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS**

*Adopted: 15 July 2014  
Date Filed: 05 September 2014*

**I. Background and Rationale**

Republic Act No. 10633, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of FY 2014, allocated Php3.193 Billion fund to complement the existing Medical Health Care Assistance Program of the Department of Health (DOH). The fund shall be utilized for the grant of assistance to indigent or poor patients.

**II. Scope**

These guidelines shall apply to all offices and persons involved in the implementation of medical assistance to indigent and poor patients in government hospitals.

**III. Objective**

These guidelines are promulgated to rationalize the process in the allocation and utilization of the medical assistance fund.

**IV. Definition of Terms**

1. Government Hospitals - refers to hospitals owned or managed by the government through the DOH, Local Government Units (LGUs) and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).
2. Medical Assistance Fund - represents the allocation in the 2014 GAA intended for medical assistance to indigent or poor patients.
3. Retained Hospitals. - refers to all hospitals under the management and operation of the DOH.
4. Specialty Hospitals - refers to the four (4) corporate hospitals under the DOH namely, the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) and the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC).
5. LGU Hospitals - refers to hospitals owned or managed by LGUs.
6. SUC Hospitals - refers to hospitals owned or managed by SUCs.
7. Indigent or Poor Patients - are persons who cannot meet their basic needs or who have income/s but are insufficient to fully meet their medical expenses, respectively, and are seeking medical services as in patient, whether confined in a ward, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or small private room, or out patient in government hospitals.