



Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2017 - 0173

TO : ALL CONCERNED BUREAU DIRECTORS UNDER THE OFFICE FOR HEALTH REGULATION, REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THEIR REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISIONS (RLED), HEAD OF NRLS, HOSPITAL CHIEFS, HEAD OF LABORATORIES, and OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Agreement on the New Timelines for the Application and Issuance of Certificates of Performance / Certificates of Proficiency of External Quality Assessment Program (EQAP) Conducted by National Reference Laboratories (NRLs)

Most of the clinical laboratories fail to comply with the External Quality Assessment Program (EQAP) requirement as stipulated in section 6.B.1.f of Administrative Order No. 2007-0027, which is a prerequisite for the issuance of a License to Operate (LTO). One reason for non-compliance is the missed participation of clinical laboratories in the program due to the different schedules of application or registration period, and releasing of Certificates by NRLs.


To address these issues, the National External Quality Assessment Scheme (NEQAS), the HFSRB and NRLs have agreed to harmonize the schedules as follows:

National Reference Laboratory (NRL)	Date of Application	Certificate of Performance or Certificate of Proficiency	
		Date of Issuance	Year of Result
1. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine	Every April to May of the year cycle	Every November	Current Year
a. Parasitology			
b. Transfusion Transmissible Infection			
c. Bacteriology			
2. STD-AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory			
3. East Avenue Medical Center			
a. Drinking Water Analysis			
b. Drug Testing Laboratory			
4. Lung Center of the Philippines for Clinical Chemistry			
5. National Kidney and Transplant Institute for Hematology			

Subsequently, starting 2019 all clinical laboratories shall be required to present their latest *Certificates of Performance or Certificates of Proficiency* with a satisfactory or excellent performance from each NRL applicable to their category instead of Certificate of Participation.

This is in line with the aim of HFSRB, as the DOH licensing agency, to facilitate and streamline the licensing process for clinical laboratories thus ensuring the protection and safety of patients and continued access to quality services.

For strict compliance.


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Secretary of Health