



PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Theme: “Makabagong PMA: Tagapangalaga ng Pilipinong Manggagamot at Kalikasan”

Member : World Medical Association
Co-Founder : Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)
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Guidelines in the Conduct of Foreign Medical and Surgical Missions in the Philippines

By

PMA Committee on Medical Missions

I. Guidelines in the Conduct of Foreign Medical and Surgical Missions

- a. A foreign medical or surgical mission can **only** be conducted in a given locality with the **written consent** of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), through the local component medical society. The organizers must send a letter of request or notice **not later than 90 days before** the proposed medical mission.

* **Special clause** – exemptions may be given to the geographically isolated and depressed areas

- b. With the help of the Department of Health (DOH) and or Provincial Health office (PHO)/Municipal Health Office (MHO)/ City Health Office (CHO), the **local component medical society** shall screen the patients qualified to be treated by a particular medical or surgical mission. These medical and surgical missions must be taken as **professional endeavors** and **NOT as medium for political patronage**.
- c. Should the foreign medical or surgical mission entail the practice of a specialty, **written consent** must also be given by the **local specialty society**.
- d. A legally binding **contract** must be entered into between the foreign medical or surgical mission organizers and the local counterpart. The **contract** should include the following:
 - i. No foreigner in training (as intern, resident, fellow or their equivalents) will perform any specialty work;
 - ii. The medical work must be done under the supervision, control and approval of the PMA, through the local component medical society and/or the local specialty society;
 - iii. Records of the work done must be kept and copies submitted to the Department of Health (DOH), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), specialty society concerned, and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), through the local component medical society;
 - iv. All records including audio-visual documents, still pictures and their negatives are property of the Philippine counterpart and may not be used or reproduced for advertisement, solicitation or medical publication without the written approval of the PMA, through the local component medical society, specialty society and the local counterpart; and any intellectual output as journal publication must include the local physicians as senior authors;



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- v. The foreign medical and surgical mission shall post a bond, amounting to not less than P50,000 or \$1,000, to cover any legal and other claims resulting from the medical or surgical mission with the amount set by the local component medical society depending on the scope of the mission;
- vi. Any help needed as assistants at medical consultations or surgery, social workers, and nurse shall also include Filipino personnel.
- e. The foreign doctors must secure a **special temporary permit to practice medicine (STP)** from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) of the Philippines; **without which, NO foreign doctor may be allowed** to handle Filipino patients. The **requirements** of PRC for the application of special temporary permit to practice medicine in the Philippines are the following:
 - i. Applicant is a citizen of a country which grants reciprocity for Philippine physicians to practice;
 - ii. Applicant is already a trained specialist as attested to by his curriculum to the satisfaction of the Board of Medicine;
 - iii. Applicant's curriculum vitae and other supporting documents must be authenticated by the Philippine embassy/consulate;
 - iv. Applicant shall perform a SPECIFIC function for a limited period of time not exceeding 90 days which may be renewed at the discretion of the Board of Medicine;
 - v. Applicant must submit to the Board of Medicine his application and all supporting documents and these must be received by the Board not later than 90 days before the proposed medical mission.
- f. If the facilities of the DOH, LGU or private institutions are used (such as hospitals, health centers, laboratories, etc.), **permission from the DOH, LGU, or private institutions** must also be obtained.
- g. At the place where medical and surgical missions are conducted, the **special temporary permit to practice medicine** must be **prominently** displayed.
- h. A **Post-Mission report** must be filed by the head of the medical or surgical Mission, and to be submitted to the PMA, through the concerned local component medical society, **within 30 days after** the completion of the mission.

II. Violations

- a. Conducting missions without approval
- b. Submission of false information
- c. Allowing unqualified persons to perform medical procedures
- d. Practice beyond competence
- e. Failure to obtain informed consent
- f. Breach of confidentiality
- g. Unauthorized use of patient information
- h. Failure to submit required reports
- i. Misuse of donations or resources
- j. Failure to provide appropriate referral and follow-up



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III. Sanctions (depending on severity)

- a. Requirement of corrective measures
- b. Suspension of endorsement
- c. Disqualification from future missions
- d. Referral to appropriate regulatory bodies (NBI, PRC)

*Sanctions will be given by the PMA, through the recommendation of the Committee on Medical Missions

V. Implementation

- a. PMA, through the Committee on Medical Missions
- b. PMA Regional Councils
- c. Component Medical Societies
- d. Specialty Divisions, Subspecialties and, Affiliate Societies
- e. Healthcare Institutions
- f. Department of Interior and Local Government
- g. Department of Health
- h. Partner Organizations (NGOs, Religious Groups, Schools, Companies, etc.)