



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 23, 2021

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2021- 0369

FOR : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHDs), MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM) AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Guide for CHDs/ MOH-BARMM Regarding Additional LGUs Committing to Integrate their Local Health Systems

The Department of Health (DOH) has issued DM No. 2020-0414 entitled "*Official List of Universal Health Care Integration Sites (UHC IS) as of 30 September 2020*" to recognize the 58 LGUs (49 provinces and 9 highly urbanized cities/independent component cities) that have formally manifested their willingness to integrate their local health systems into Province-Wide and City-Wide Health Systems (P/CWHS) pursuant to Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as "*Universal Health Care Act*". From then on, other provinces, HUCs and ICCs have also expressed their commitment to implement the integration reform.

This Department Memorandum shall provide the guide for CHDs/ MOH-BARMM regarding additional LGUs (provinces/HUCs/ICCs) committing to integrate their local health systems.

- A. Upon receiving the letter of intent from an LGU to integrate their local health systems into P/CWHS, the concerned Center for Health Development (CHD)/ Ministry of Health-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MOH-BARMM) shall orient the concerned LGU on the Local Health Systems Maturity Levels (LHS ML) and other local health system integration-related policies, plans and standards. Furthermore, the CHD/ MOH-BARMM shall inform the concerned Field Implementation and Coordination Team (FICT) Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary.
- B. The CHD/ MOH-BARMM shall ensure that they will be able to provide the necessary technical assistance to the additional LGUs that expressed their intent to be Universal Health Care Integration Sites (UHC IS), considering the existing number of UHC IS in their region.
- C. An LGU shall only be recommended by the CHD/ MOH- BARMM, through concerned FICT-Office of the Undersecretary, to be an additional UHC IS once the following requirements are met:
 - i. Signed Sanggunian Panlalawigan/ Panlungsod (SP) Resolution or Executive Order expressing LGUs' commitment to LHS integration; and
 - ii. Local Chief Executive (LCE)-signed Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding among the Provincial/ City Government, DOH, and PhilHealth describing the specific commitments of parties to implement LHS integration.
- D. The concerned FICT Undersecretary shall inform the DOH Executive Committee of

the list of additional UHC IS under their jurisdiction for the ExeCom's approval. *Provided*, That Item C of this Department Memorandum has already been complied.


- E. The additional UHC IS shall comply with the LHS ML and other requirements set forth by the DOH. The Provincial/ City Health Board (P/CHB), through the Provincial/ City Health Office (P/CHO), assisted by the CHD/ MOH-BARMM Core Group and Provincial/ City DOH Office (P/CDOHO)/ Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) shall conduct an initial baseline assessment based on the Key Results Areas (KRAs) of the LHS ML.

Furthermore, representatives from the P/CHO of the additional UHC IS shall register and finish the online UHC Implementers' Course of the DOH.

- F. Submission of the baseline assessment results of the concerned LGU shall follow the requirements and timelines stated in the latest Department Memorandum (DM) governing the current fiscal year's LHS ML annual monitoring. The additional UHC IS shall then be included in the succeeding Annual LHS ML National Report.
- G. The CHDs, P/CDOHOs, and Central Office Bureaus/ Services shall provide the necessary technical assistance to assist the additional UHC IS in achieving integration, based on their identified gaps and TA needs.
- H. Financial grants to support the additional UHC IS in implementing the integration reforms shall be provided in the succeeding fiscal years. *Provided*, That the ExeCom has approved its inclusion before the deadline for submission of budget proposals to DBM. *Provided further*, That the DOH budget proposal to support all the UHC IS has been approved in the General Appropriations Act.

For compliance and dissemination to all concerned.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


MARIO C. VILLAVERDE, MD, MPH, MPM, CESO I
Undersecretary of Health
Health Policy and Systems Development Team