

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
Meralco Drive, Pasig, Manila

June 7, 1993

DECS Order No. 36, s. 1993

REVISED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

To: Bureau Directors, Regional Directors
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
Presidents of State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Colleges of Medicine

1. In conformity with the need for encouraging the establishment of additional qualified medical schools, especially outside the National Capital Region, and after consultation with the appropriate association of medical schools, the Revised Policies and Guidelines on Medical Education are hereby issued for information and proper implementation by all concerned.

2. **National Medical Admission Test (NMAT)**. The National Medical Admission Test (NMAT), a pre-requisite for admission to medical school shall continue to be managed and administered by the Center for Educational Measurement as authorized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

2.1. Effective with the school year 1993-94, there shall be no cut-off score in the National Medical Admission Test, and the previous maximum validity period of four years of the NMAT passing score shall no longer be in effect. However, medical schools are hereby advised to use the NMAT results carefully for the purpose of screening applicants for admission to medical school. For all intent and purposes, students desiring to pursue the medical program after meeting all other requirements, may be considered for admission to medical school for as long as they have taken the National Medical Admission Test. The NMAT scores obtained by students at any given examination year are deemed sufficient and valid for entrance to a college of medicine.

2.2. Pursuant to Section 5 of the amended Medical Act of 1959, DECS Regional Offices shall continue issuing the required Certificate of Eligibility for Medicine and collect the amount of ₱60.00 application fee, as per DECS Order No. 100, s. 1992, provided that applicant possesses a bachelor's degree, has taken the NMAT, and has earned the minimum number of credits in the following subjects, namely, 15 units in Biology, 10 units in Chemistry, 9 units in Mathematics, and 5 units in Physics.

3. **Transfer of Medical Students**. Transfers by medical students between medical schools shall now be a school-to-school transaction, and shall no longer need the authority of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports as previously called for in DECS Order No. 49, s. 1987. Medical schools shall release upon request the transcript of records, honorable dismissal, and transfer credentials of students seeking transfer to other medical schools within one month, provided that such students are cleared of money responsibilities and other school accountabilities.

4. **Donations**. In order to augment the income derived from the payment of tuition fees by

medical students and to further sustain operational costs, medical schools may continue to receive donations in any form from foreign and local sources, provided such donations are made to the medical school itself, and the utilization of the donations clearly accounted for. Such donations, however, shall not be made as a prerequisite for the admission of students to medical school, nor shall it be a requirement for all entering students. Where such donations are required of all students, the donation shall be considered in the nature of a miscellaneous fee.

5. **Ownership of a Teaching Hospital.** In the operation and maintenance of a college of medicine, ownership of a teaching hospital is no longer required. Affiliation with a private/government hospital shall suffice, provided, that the medical school has direct participation and supervisory function in the clinical training of its medical students. This affiliation and arrangement shall be covered by a memorandum of agreement between the medical school and the hospital. For growth, development, and progression, however, medical schools are hereby encouraged ultimately to own and operate their own teaching hospital.

6. **The University Requirement.** The university requirement for medical schools is hereby waived, and applications to open medical schools are no longer limited to universities. However, medical colleges are still encouraged, as a general rule, to be a university-based institution. Moreover, applications for the establishment of medical schools by newly organized educational institutions are not likely to be considered favorably for the time being unless such institutions are themselves hospitals of long standing.

7. **Post Graduate Internship.** The Intern-Matching Program whereby medical graduates are matched to the various accredited training hospitals to undergo rotating internship shall continue to be administered by the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges Foundation (APMCF) in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

8. **Revalida.** Medical schools requiring revalida examinations as a pre-requisite for graduation should indicate such a policy in their prospectus or similar document.

9. **Enrollment Beyond Authorized Quotas.** While the matter of adjusting individual medical school enrollment quotas is still under study, DECS supports the concept of a more flexible quota system which responds to the needs of an increasing population, instead of the absolutely fixed quota system presently in force. Any medical school which may have reached its quota limits and which would like to enroll more students should apply to DECS, indicating the basis for its present quotas and its ability to provide instruction to additional students, more specifically its faculty capabilities.

10. **Effectivity.** This Order shall be effective with the school year 1993-94. All previous DECS issuances inconsistent and contrary to this Order are hereby repealed and/or modified.



ARMAND V. FABELLA
Secretary