



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 7, 2024

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2024 - 0053

- FOR: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, DOH-CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, SERVICES AND SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, CHIEFS OF DOH-HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CENTERS AND INSTITUTES, DIRECTORS OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED**
- SUBJECT: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Philippine Hospital Infection Control Society Inc. on May 23-24, 2024**
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The Philippine Hospital Infection Control Society Inc. will be holding its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention with the theme “Strengthening IPC Resilience: Back to Basics, Forwarding to the Future” on May 23-24, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

In accordance with the Department Order No. 2007-0053, attendance to this activity of concerned **Personnel in DOH Hospitals:**

- A. shall be on **Official Business**
1. when the DOH employee is a presenter/discussant, facilitator, moderator, or panelist. As such, the registration/enrolment fees, per diems, and traveling and other incidental expenses, shall be borne by the sending office; and
  2. **subject to the office’s availability of funds**
- B. shall be on **Official Time** when the DOH employee is duly funded through sponsorships by development partners or local partners in health

For either case attendance to the activity must be related to performance of job functions or related to the practice of his/her profession, and the Learning and Development Intervention (LDI) is identified in the employee’s Learning and Development Plan (LDP).

Additionally, attendees must be authorized by their respective hospital directors or office heads, through an appropriate Personnel Order.

All other transactions shall be in accordance with the following issuances:

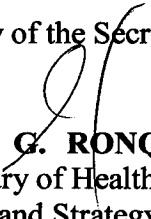
(1) Administrative Order (AO) No. 2021-0007, entitled "Guidelines on the Integrated Learning and Development Management System of the Department of Health (DOH)",

(2) Department Order (DO) No. 2014-0094, entitled "Guidelines on the Allowable Rates of Payment for Human Resource Development Activities."

Attached is the invitation letter for your ready reference.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

  
**KENNETH G. RONQUILLO, MD, MPH, CESO III**  
Undersecretary of Health  
UHC Policy and Strategy Cluster

Good morning po!

We would like to follow up the status of our request for department circular - PHICS 29th Annual Convention

Thank you po and keep safe always

**PHICS**

**2nd Floor 116 9th Avenue Brgy. Socorro, Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109  
(02) 8913-2852/ 0906 5533431**

On Friday, December 15, 2023 at 01:23:25 PM GMT+8, phics control <phicsinc@yahoo.com> wrote:

December 15, 2023

**TEODORO JAVIER HERBOSA, MD**

Secretary  
Department of Health  
San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman  
Sta. Cruz, Manila

Dear **Dr. Herbosa,**

Good Day!

The Philippine Hospital Infection Control Society (PHICS), Inc. will be holding its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention from May 23-24, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila with the theme: "Strengthening IPC Resilience: Back to Basics, Forwarding to the Future".

The field of infection prevention and control has already garnered the rightful attention it deserves. This good news, however, is coupled with the responsibility to empower healthcare workers with the right knowledge and skills to meet the challenges this brings. The PHICS promises to take on this role and help the healthcare worker put infection prevention and control at the *heart of patient care*. Thus, we wish to invite you to join us in this event.

The organizing committee has prepared a program of relevant topics including:

- ✓ Culture of Safety: Impact of Quality Improvement in IPC Processes and Outcomes
- ✓ Update on the 2007 Isolation Precaution Guidelines
- ✓ Quality Standards in PPE Used in Healthcare Setting
- ✓ Updates in Wound Management
- ✓ Starting AMS in the Outpatient Setting
- ✓ MDRO Admission Screening
- ✓ Surveillance of Waterborne Outbreaks in Hemodialysis Patients

And because we listen to our dear members and participants, we have incorporated a few more innovations to increase interactivity for the upcoming convention:

- ✓ Importance of Raw Material used in Hand Hygiene Products
- ✓ UVC Disinfection – Myths vs Facts
- ✓ Principles of Effective Linen and Laundry Management
- ✓ Meet the Experts: Best Practices in Reprocessing Endoscope and Safety Monitoring
- ✓ Meet the Experts: IPC During Renovations and Constructions
- ✓ PHICS Knockouts Year 6
- ✓ Research Presentations

This year's convention will hopefully advance the knowledge of all stakeholders including hospital executives or managers, doctors, nurses, laboratory technologists, pharmacists, and other allied health professionals. We are excited to meet you and your representatives there!

Enclosed is a copy of the scientific program for your reference. For more information, please feel free to call our Secretariat through **Ms. Jobelle T. Magpantay** at **Telefax (02) 913-2852**, **Mobile No. 09065533431** or you may email us at [phicsinc@yahoo.com](mailto:phicsinc@yahoo.com).

In this regard, the society is requesting your kind office to issue a **DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR** for those institutions with infection prevention and control healthcare workers to attend the convention **on official business** based on the office learning and development plan and subject for availability of funds from sending institutions.

Your favorable action to this request shall be most highly appreciated. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**PAMELA ROSE A. MATTI, MD**  
Vice President and Overall Chair  
PHICS 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

**VICTORIA I. CHING, RN**  
President, 2022-2024

29<sup>th</sup> PHICS Annual Convention  
 May 23 – 24, 2024  
 Crowne Plaza Galleria

**Theme:** Strengthening IPC Resilience: Back to Basics, Forwarding to the Future

**May 23, 2024**

Time	Topics	Objectives
7:00 am	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
8:30 am	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	
9:00 am	<b>Keynote Address:</b> Strengthening IPC Resilience: Back to Basics, Forwarding to the Future	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the importance of the basic concepts of IPC towards the future</li> <li>2. Acknowledge the evolution of IPC practice – revisiting Semmelweis and Pasteur’s vision</li> <li>3. Apply learnings to this day and the future</li> </ol>
9:40 am	<b>OPENING OF BOOTH EXHIBITS</b>	
10:00 am	<b>Plenary 1:</b> Culture of Safety: Impact of Quality Improvement in IPC Processes and Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define safety culture</li> <li>2. Determine the relationship between safety culture and infection prevention and control-related (IPC) processes and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)</li> <li>3. Determine mechanisms to measure safety culture</li> </ol>
10:45 am	<b>Meet the Experts:</b> Best Practices in Reprocessing Endoscope/ Laparoscope and Safety Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Know the risks associated with reprocessing flexible endoscopes and laparoscopes for surgery</li> <li>2. Know the causes of contamination and infection</li> <li>3. Determine the gaps in current reprocessing standards</li> <li>4. Establish scientific rationale and evidence requirements for enhancing safe practices</li> </ol>

11:25 am	<b>Plenary 2:</b> Update on the 2007 Isolation Precaution Guidelines		1. Review the old guidelines and discuss the changes made	
12:05 pm	<b>LUNCH SYMPOSIUM</b>			
1:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Importance of Raw Material used in Hand HYGIENE PRODUCTS – Quality testing to be included</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">UVC disinfection – Myths vs Facts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Know the different raw materials for hand sanitizers and bar/liquid soaps</li> <li>2. Know quality testing prior to use</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the common misperceptions regarding UV technology, device effectiveness and operational safety</li> <li>2. Clarify these misperceptions</li> <li>3. Inform the assessment, selection and successful implementation of UV room disinfection</li> <li>4. To show if UVC can “disinfect”, “sterilize”, or “decontaminate through studies on the basis of log reduction– is this a form of</li> </ol>

				consumer deception
2:10 pm	<b>Symposium 3</b> Quality Standards in PPE used in Healthcare setting	<b>Symposium 4</b> Updates in Wound Management	<b>Symposium 3</b> 1. Review of the technical specifications of PPE in IPC 2. Know standards and quality control for each PPE	<b>Symposium 4</b> 1. Use evidence-based recommendations of IPC and implement effectively into practice --- is there a difference between the different antiseptics? 2. Apply safe practices to reduce wound infection 3. Understand the importance of using current educational resources
2:50 pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>			
3:10 – 4:10 pm	<b>Research Presentations</b>			
4:15 – 5:00 pm	<b>PHICS KNOCKOUT</b>			

May 24, 2024

Time	Topics	Objectives
8:00 am	<b>BUSINESS MEETING</b>	
9:00 am	<b>Plenary 3: Starting AMS in the Outpatient Setting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Know some components of AMS program in ambulatory care</li> <li>2. Know the 4 moments of antimicrobial prescribing in ambulatory care</li> <li>3. Know the role of pharmacists in such set-up</li> </ol>
9:45 am	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
10:00 am	<b>Plenary 4: MDRO Admission Screening</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss different MDRO screening protocols, its practicality and compliance</li> <li>2. Know the MDRO swab-site recommendations</li> </ol>
10:45 am	<b>Plenary 5: Surveillance of Waterborne Outbreaks in Hemodialysis Patients</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the factors that increase risk of hemodialysis patients to healthcare-associated infections and the common waterborne outbreaks and infections in hemodialysis</li> <li>2. Discuss guidelines on the quality of dialysis fluid for hemodialysis specifically sampling locations for microbiological testing and how often</li> <li>3. Discuss monitoring of existing water distribution systems as well as newly installed water treatment system or when a change has been made to an existing system</li> </ol>



12noon	<b>LUNCH SYMPOSIUM</b>	
1:30 pm	Ethical Aspects Relating to Healthcare associated Infections	1. Understand ethical aspects for healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) – eg, ethical issues on giving information to a colleague friend vs. public
2:10 pm	Legal Aspects Relating to Healthcare associated Infections	1. Understand legal aspects for healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) – eg. are there case laws relating specifically to non-compliance with infection control practices; Can the current case law be used to establish whether or not a HCP failed to implement to an acceptable standard infection control practice had acted negligently, and as a result caused a patient to develop a healthcare-associated infection?
3:00 pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
3:15 pm	<b>PHICS KNOCKOUT</b>	
4:00 pm	<b>Oath Taking of Officers – Arthur Dessi E. Roman, MD</b> <b>Oath Taking of New Members</b> <b>Loyalty Awards – Carmenchu Marie E. Villavicencio/Ricardo P. Corado, RN</b> <b>Recognition of Industry Partners – Maria Lourdes Bernadeth V. Manipon-Laxina, RN</b> <b>Closing Remarks – Pamela Rose A. Matti, MD</b>	