REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

JOINT MEMORANDUM ORDER
No. 2012 - 001

SUBJECT: Requirement for Ethical Review of Health Research Involving Human Participants

Pursuant to national commitment to the protection of the rights of individuals, the four core agencies of the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) namely the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Health (DOH), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the University of the Philippines Manila (UPM), hereby require that all health researches involving human subjects must undergo ethical review and clearance before implementation to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of research participants.

The research ethics review and approval shall be facilitated by an Ethics Review Committee (ERC) duly registered with and/or accredited by the Philippine Health Ethics Research Board (PHREB). To ensure efficient, transparent, and timely review, the ERC should have a manual of standard operating procedures (SOPs) which must clearly describe all areas of its work. The ERC should indicate a reasonable time frame in their SOPs for completing the review process and provide the proponent a written, signed and dated feedback on its review, preferably within six weeks after receipt of the submitted documents.

A reasonable review fee may be charged after proper consultation with and notice to concerned individuals and agencies.

Institutions must show support for their ERCs with proper funding for office maintenance, administrative staff, and honoraria of members.

For immediate dissemination and compliance of all concerned.

Done this 28 of DEC 2012 in Metro Manila.

MARIO G. MONTEJO
Secretary
Department of Science & Technology

ENRIQUE T. ONA, MD
Secretary
Department of Health

PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, PhD
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education

MANUEL B. AGULTO, MD
Chancellor
University of the Philippines-Manila