



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

DEC 14 2015

**DEPARTMENT ORDER**  
NO. 2015 - 0270

**SUBJECT: Transfer of the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) from the Health Promotions and Communications Service (HPCS) to the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB)**

## **I. BACKGROUND**

In 2013, R.A. 10351 called the “Sin Tax Law” restructured the excise tax on tobacco and alcohol to decrease tobacco and alcohol consumption as well as increase revenue to be earmarked for health. The increased fiscal space for health facilitated expansion of the country’s programs to achieve universal health care and improve health outcomes. In line with this, there is a need to improve the country’s strategies in the reduction of alcohol intake and tobacco smoking incidence and provide for an integrated and a more comprehensive program for the reduction of risk and controlling the prevalence of non-communicable diseases.

This Order aims to transfer the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) to the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB). This is in line with DPCB’s stipulated general functions which are:

- 1) Develop plans, policies, programs, projects and strategies for disease prevention and control and health protection; and
- 2) Provide coordination, technical assistance, capability building, consultancy and advisory services to disease prevention and control, and health protection.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

This Order aims to subsume the functions of the National Tobacco Control Coordination Office (NTCCO) from the Health Promotion and Communication Service (HPCS) to the DPCB as the duly mandated bureau to lead the organization, coordination and development of the NTCP in DOH to achieve reduction of NCDs and risk factors.

## **III. SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

This Order applies to all DOH offices and its attached agencies involved in tobacco control activities, projects and programs.

#### **IV. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. The DPCB shall be responsible for establishing a comprehensive NTCP using a risk factor reduction approach in the prevention and control of tobacco use and its complications.
2. The DPCB shall be responsible for organizing the NTCP to uphold the principles in the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) and all Philippine Laws on Tobacco Use.
3. All functions of the NTCCO created under Department Order 2011-0029 shall be subsumed as inherent functions of the DPCB under the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP).
4. The DPCB shall be the office that coordinates with the Inter-agency Committee on Tobacco (IACT).
5. The DPCB shall coordinate the different DOH bureaus/offices with regards to Tobacco Control.

#### **V. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**

1. The DPCB through the NTCP shall be the office responsible for issuing policies, plans, programs, monitoring, evaluation and shall be the coordinating office for all the DOH offices and bureaus involved in Tobacco Control.
2. The DPCB Director upon the approval of the Cluster Head and Secretary of Health shall reconstitute the NTCCO to become the NTCP to improve its effectiveness and efficacy.
3. The following DOH offices shall be assured representation among others in the NTCP or any of its subsidiary groups:
  - a. Office for Technical Services (OTS)
  - b. Office of Health Operations (OHO)
  - c. Health Promotion and Communication Service (HPCS)
  - d. Epidemiology Bureau (EB)
  - e. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
4. The following WHO-FCTC priorities and responsibilities shall be considered in organizing the NTCP:
  - a. Education, Communication and Public Awareness
  - b. Price Tax Measure
  - c. Smoke-free Environments
  - d. Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship Ban
  - e. Packaging and Labeling of Tobacco Products
  - f. Regulation of Tobacco Product Content and Disclosures
  - g. Tobacco Dependence and Treatment
  - h. Surveillance and Research

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## **VI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER CLUSTERS/OFFICES**

The following DOH Clusters and Offices shall have the following functions:

1. OTS shall oversee the organization, coordination, and development of the NTCP.
2. OHO shall ensure proper coordination and implementation of all policies, plans and programs of the NTCP with regional offices.
3. HPCS shall spearhead promotional, advocacy and information campaigns required by the NTCP.
4. EB shall be responsible for the development and institutionalization of a national reporting/ surveillance for the NTCP. EB shall also be responsible for the Global Adult Tobacco Survey/Behavior Tracking and Tobacco Plan-It modules for local and sub-national levels which focuses on tobacco control and assessment of the magnitude of tobacco use in their respective jurisdiction.
5. FDA shall be responsible for the effective implementation of existing laws on tobacco product packaging and labeling and tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS).

## **VII. FUNDING SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM**

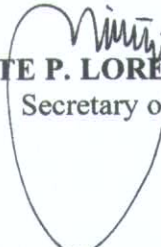
Funding of all meetings and activities by the NTCP shall be borne by the DPCB and other funding support from donors, other national agencies, local government units, NGOs, and other institutions and shall be subject to usual accounting rules and regulations.

## **VIII. REPEALING AND TRANSITORY CLAUSE**

Any provisions in all previous issuance inconsistent or in conflict with this Order is hereby repealed or amended.

## **IX. EFFECTIVITY**

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
**JANETTE P. LORETO-GARIN, MD**  
Secretary of Health