REVISED GUIDELINES ON PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAMS OFFERED AND OPERATED BY DENTISTS

WHEREAS, Sec. 6 (d), Art. II of Republic Act (RA) No. 9484 provides that the Professional Regulatory Board of Dentistry (Board) is empowered to “[a]dopt or recommend such measures or discharge such duties, as may be deemed proper for the advancement of the profession and the vigorous enforcement of this Act.”

WHEREAS, Sec. 4 (g), Rule I of Board Resolution No. 13 (s 2007) or the Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Dental Act of 2007 defines preceptorship program as a training program in any of the six (6) specialties in dentistry and integration of knowledge and skills in a particular discipline which should be university-based or hospital based run by specialist/s who have undergone extensive training or obtained a degree in an accredited dental university” (underlining ours).

WHEREAS, the Board issued Resolution No. 16 (s. 2008) prescribing the guidelines on preceptorship programs offered and operated by dentists;

WHEREAS, in this Resolution, the Board acknowledged that there was a proliferation of preceptorship programs offered and run by dentists and so-called Post Graduate Training Centers for Dentists in specialties of dentistry;

WHEREAS, despite their inadequate formal academic training/s and/or mere completion of informal training/s locally or internationally, they held out themselves to the public as “experts” or “specialists” who are capable of transferring supposedly valuable and newly acquired knowledge and skills on certain fields of specialization in Dentistry;

WHEREAS, this practice is not only inimical to the dental profession in particular but also to the public in general, who may be misled into believing that these individuals are duly qualified to engage in such undertakings;

WHEREAS, in 2018, RA No. 10968 or the “Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act” was passed into law recognizing the policy of the State to institutionalize the PQF to encourage lifelong learning of individuals, provide employee specific training standards and qualifications aligned with industry standards;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of RA No. 10968 states that a PQF shall be established which shall describe the levels of educational qualifications and set the standards for qualification outcomes. It is a quality assured national system for the development, recognition and award of qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers of the country;

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1 Seven (7) specializations, viz.: Endodontics, Pedodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Oral Surgery, Orthodontics and Public Health based on Board Resolution No. 05 (s 2018) Approval of Accreditation of Philippine Academy of Dental Public Health, Inc. as a Dental Specialty Society
WHEREAS, Section 12 of Article III of RA 10912 or the "Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016" mandates the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) and the Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs) to formulate and implement a Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) for every profession;

WHEREAS, the Board accredits Quality Assured Career Progression and Specialization Programs in Dentistry to address the Pathways and Equivalencies of PQF to enhance and upgrade the competencies and qualifications of professionals for the practice of their professions pursuant to the PQF, the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (ASEAN MRAs);

WHEREAS, after consultation with the academe, industry, and specialty societies, there is a need to align the present guidelines on preceptorship programs offered and operated by dentists with the preceding laws to further strengthen the regulation, supervision, and monitoring of the establishment and administration of post-graduate training centers offering and operating Preceptorship Programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board RESOLVES, as it hereby RESOLVED, to prescribe and issue the following revised guidelines:

1. Updated Definition of Preceptorship Program
   "Preceptorship Program" refers to the training program of any of the seven specialties in dentistry and integration of knowledge and skills in a particular discipline which should be conducted in a:
   (1) Department of Health (DOH) accredited hospital or
   (2) Commission on Higher Education (CHED) recognized dental school/college, or
   (3) Other training institutions accredited by the Board, run by program instructors possessing credentials as required by the Board.

2. The preceptorship programs and its training institutions shall be accredited by the Board subject to the approval of the Commission. Guidelines for the Criteria, Standards and Procedure for the Accreditation of Preceptorship Programs and Training Institutions shall be issued by the Board.

3. The program instructors shall possess the following credentials:
   3.1. A holder of a formal full-time academic and clinical training on the concerned specialty in a recognized school/college/university in the Philippines or abroad;
   3.2. Must be a Fellow Specialist or Diplomate Specialist of good standing of any of the PRC accredited dental specialty societies.
   3.3. A holder of a valid Certificate of Registration (COR) and a valid Professional Identification Card (PIC); and
   3.4. Must be a bonafide member of the PRC Accredited Professional Organization (APO) or the PRC Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO).

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4. Majority of the Faculty members shall be included in the Roster of Faculty /Consultant of a duly accredited dental school/college/university/tertiary hospital.

5. Completion of a Board accredited preceptorship program may be credited as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit units for purposes of Professional Identification Card (PIC) renewal. This can also form part of the Career Progression and Specialization Program for Dentistry (CPSD), upon evaluation and recognition of the learning outcomes by the PRC Accredited Dental Specialty Societies.

6. Prohibited Actions and Imposable Penalty

6.1. The Board, after due process pursuant to Sec. 22, Art III of R.A. No. 9484, may revoke or suspend the validity of the Certificate of Registration (COR) and PIC of a dentist for unprofessional, unethical, immoral, dishonorable and unethical conduct for fraudulently representing himself/herself as an expert or specialist conducting, teaching, or offering a preceptorship program in a training institution which is not accredited by the Board and by the Commission;

6.2. Dentists undertaking a preceptorship training in a non-accredited program will result to non-recognition and no award of credit units for CPD and for CPSD; and

6.3. Anyone who conducts, teaches, or offers a preceptorship program without a valid COR and PIC shall be charged criminally under Section 33, Article V of RA No. 9484.

FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be made part of Board Resolution No. 12 (s 2007) or the Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Dental Act of 2007.

All orders, resolutions and other related issuances of the Board and the Commission that are not consistent with the provisions of this Resolutions are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its full and complete publication in the Official Gazette or any major daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Let copies hereof be disseminated to all schools/colleges/universities offering a dentistry course, hospitals, and clinics through the Philippine Association of Dental Colleges, Inc. (PADC), Philippine Dental Association, Inc. (PDA) or the accredited national organization of dental hygienists and dental technologists, Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for the information and guidance of all concerned.
Done in the City of Manila this 21st day of May 2020.

MELINDA L. GARCIA, DMD
Officer-in-Charge

MARIA JONA D. GODOY, DMD
Member

CARLITO D. PARAGAS, DMD
Member

ROBERTO M. TAJONERA, DMD
Member

RODOLFO R. DRAPETE, DMD
Member

ATTESTED:

ATTY. OMAIMAH E. GANDAMRA
Officer-in-Charge, PRB Secretariat Division

APPROVED:

TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.
Chairman

YOLANDA D. REYES
Commissioner

JOSE Y. CUETO JR.
Commissioner

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