



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

30 May 2012

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2012- 0163

FOR : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD) DIRECTORS, HEADS OF REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL, CITY/MUNICIPAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE UNITS (ESU)

SUBJECT : Guidance on Taking, Using and Disseminating Visual Recordings of Cases Included in the PIDSR Diseases under Surveillance

All concerned personnel are reminded to uphold the patients' right to privacy and confidentiality from unwarranted publicity during case investigation. The right to privacy covers the patient's right not to be subjected to **unauthorized** exposure, whether it is private or public, either by photography, video-taping, and publication or by any other means that would reveal the patient's identity.

Surveillance officers are therefore reminded to obtain the patient's/guardian's consent prior to taking photos, videos and other recordings that will be used to aid in investigation. Measures to ensure protection of patient's identity should be done, such as concealing the patient's eyes or the entire face; manually during the act of recording (e.g. use of cardboard to cover the patient's eyes/face) or through the use of a digital enhancement software (e.g. adobe photoshop). Moreover, the patient's genital part should remain covered during the recording process, unless the lesions are in the genital part and must be documented.

In cases wherein the patient's facial expression reveals vital findings, such as neurological conditions and the patient cannot be subjected to anonymity, consent from the patient is essential.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

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