



Legal Watch

DOH DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2026-0223



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SUMMARY

The DOH issued Department Circular No. 2026-0223 (“Circular”) directing concerned health facilities and institutions to adopt and integrate the updated Philippine Neurological Association guidelines on brain death determination into their clinical protocols and institutional policies. The issuance aims to establish a uniform framework for the assessment, documentation, and certification of brain death across health facilities.

All Heads of Offices are directed to disseminate the Circular to all concerned personnel, including neurologists, intensivists, transplant coordinators, and other relevant healthcare providers, and to ensure strict compliance therewith.

For reference and guidance, the complete set of documents may be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2026PNAUpdatedGuidelinesonBrainDeathDetermination>

ACTIONABLE ADVICE:

Covered health facilities, particularly hospitals, medical centers, intensive care units, and transplant-related facilities, should review their existing clinical protocols and documentation procedures on brain death determination. Said facilities should ensure that internal policies are aligned with the updated guidelines and that relevant medical personnel are informed of the changes.

* Agency Name

Department of Health (DOH)

* Issuance Title

Dissemination and Adoption of the Philippine Neurological Association Updated Guidelines on Brain Death Determination (Death by Neurological Criteria)

* Issuance Date

30 April 2026

* Link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OwSmvinBclO_VNlgoCgJOuZlidVu2-P/view?usp=sharing

