 <p>B.S. Aquino Drive, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, 6100</p> <p>DR. PABLO O. TORRE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL</p>	Document Code:	DPOTMH-B-7-P03
	Effective Date:	04-01-2022
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	Document Title:	IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 9439 (ANTI-DETENTION POLICY)

PURPOSE:

To establish a procedure with regards to the application of RA 9439 to the daily hospital operations and to ensure non-violation thereof.

LEVEL:


Admitting Section, Billing Section, Nursing Services Division

DEFINITION OF TERMS:


1. **RA 9439.** Also known as an act prohibiting the detention of patients in hospitals and medical clinics on grounds of non-payment of hospital bills or medical expenses.
2. **Private Room.** A single occupancy room or a ward type room divided by either a permanent or semi- permanent partition (except curtains) not to exceed four patients per room who are admitted for diagnosis, treatment, and other forms of healthcare maintenance.
3. **Ward.** Rooms with more than four patients, or those rooms with more than one patient but does not have partitions.

POLICY:

1. Republic Act No. 9439 provides for an Act Prohibiting the Detention of Patients in Hospital and Medical Clinics on Grounds of Non-Payment of Hospital Bills or Medical Expenses. For the purpose of this policy, all provisions of RA 9439 shall be in effect.

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2. Patients who have fully or partially recovered and who already wish to leave the hospital or medical clinic but are financially incapable to settle, in part or in full, their hospitalization expenses, including professional fees and medicines, shall be allowed to leave the hospital or medical clinic upon the execution of a promissory note covering the unpaid obligation.
3. The patient has the right to demand the issuance of the corresponding medical certificate and other documents required for interment and other purposes.
4. In the unfortunate event where the patient died, the corresponding death certificate and other documents required for interment and other purposes shall be released to any of his/her surviving relatives requesting the same.
5. As stated in Section 2 of RA 9439, patients who stayed in the private rooms shall not be covered by this act.
6. The Billing Section Staff or Supervisor and Chief Risk Manager shall allow the ward or charity patients, who claim they are unable to pay their hospital bills upon discharge to leave, provided they execute a promissory note covering their unpaid obligation. The promissory note is secured by either a mortgage or by a guarantee of a co-maker, who will be jointly and severally liable with the patient for the unpaid obligation.
7. Regardless of payments made or not made by ward or charity patients, said patients and/or their folks may request for and claim their medical certificate and other pertinent papers required for the release of said patient from the hospital.
8. In the case of a private patient, the hospital is not required to provide the medical certificate and other pertinent papers required for the release of said patient from the hospital.

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9. If a private patient insists on leaving the hospital without fully settling his bill, the case is reported to the Office of the Chief Finance Officer by the Billing Section.
10. If prior to discharge, during the course of patient's admission to the hospital, it is determined by the hospital that they do not have the capacity to pay, the hospital may initiate the transfer of the patient to a government hospital; provided further that the patients clinical condition is stable and transferred safely.
11. Under the law, Philhealth will reimburse the cost of basic emergency care and transportation services incurred by a patient that is unable to pay. The PCSO is also mandated to provide medical assistance to indigent patients. Other expenses incurred by the hospital in providing basic emergency care to indigent patients not reimbursed by Philhealth will be tax deductible.

DOCUMENTATION:

Revised Policy

DISSEMINATION:

Hospital Communicator

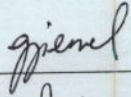
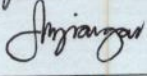
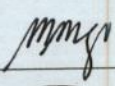

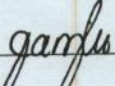
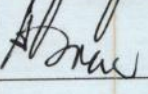
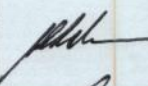
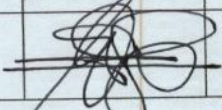


DR. PABLO O. TORRE
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

B.S. Aquino Drive,
Bacolod City,
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APPROVAL:

	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	GLOREGENE J. SERUELO Billing Supervisor		4-4-2022
Verified:	MA. VICTORIA C. VARGAS Chief Risk Manager		4/6/2022
	MARIE MARGARET G. VALLADOLID, CPA, MBA Treasury Officer		Apr 06, 2022
Reviewed:	DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua Quality Assurance Supervisor		04-06-2022
	JULIE ANNE CHRISTINE J. KO, CPA, MBA, FPCHA Chief Finance Officer		4/6/2022
Recommending Approval:	HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua Total Quality Division Officer		4/7/2022
	SOCORRO VICTORIA L. DE LEON, CPA, MBA, PhD, FPCHA Vice President, Chief Operating Officer		04/07/2022
Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		4/7/22