REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 985, s. 2021

MODIFICATION OF NURSE POSITIONS

To: All Schools Division Superintendents

1. This is in reference to the attached Department of Budget and Management Budget Circular (DBM BC) No. 2021-2 dated August 25, 2021 regarding the modification of nurse positions. Please take note of the coverage of this Circular which comprises all previous Nurse II to Nurse VII positions modified pursuant to DBM BC No. 2020-4.

2. Be reminded that the Salary Grade (SG) allocation of the former Nurse II item, SD 15 positions is hereby upgraded by one (1) SG effective not earlier than June 1, 2021. Furthermore, upgrading of the said items is dependent either it is filled or vacant. For filled positions, the proper staffing action shall be reclassification from Nurse I, SG 15 to Nurse II, SG 16. For vacant positions, its staffing action shall be conversion wherein the vacant Nurse I (formerly Nurse II) item shall be abolished, and in its stead, the creation of a Nurse II, SG 16 item shall be pursued.

3. Please refer to Annexes A and B for the reclassification or conversion of positions and for the Notice of Position Allocation and Salary Adjustment, respectively. Submit requests to this Office (soft and hard copies) at ps.region1@deped.gov.ph and at the Personnel Section on or before September 10, 2021.

4. It is the mandate of this Office to ensure the proper implementation of the stated provisions from the Circular.

5. For information, guidance and strict compliance.

For the Regional Director:

RONALD B. CASTILLO
Schools Division Superintendent
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Assistant Regional Director

Encl.: As stated
Reference: DBM BC No. 2021-2
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
Under the following subjects:

- POLICY REQUIREMENTS
- POSITIONS
- PROCEDURE

AD/hfa/RM
September 2, 2021

DepEd Region 1: Built on character; empowered by competence.
BUDGET CIRCULAR

No. 2021-2
August 25, 2021

TO: All Heads of Departments, Bureaus, Offices, and Agencies of the National Government, Including State Universities and Colleges (SUCs); Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs); Local Government Units (LGUs); and All Others Concerned

SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF NURSE POSITIONS

1.0 Background

Department Budget and Management (DBM) Budget Circular (BC) No. 2020-4 dated July 17, 2020 provided the rules and regulations on the upgrading of the entry-level of Nurse positions from Salary Grade (SG)-11 to SG-15 pursuant to Section 32 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9173 or the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002. To note, the Supreme Court of the Philippines, in Ang Nars Partylist, et. al. vs. The Executive Secretary, et. al. (G.R. No. 215746), upheld the validity of the aforesaid Section of RA No. 9173.

As a consequence of the upgrading of the entry-level Nurse positions, the position attributes of the remaining levels in the Nurse series of positions were also modified under DBM BC No. 2020-4 resulting in a Jeaner series, i.e., from seven (7) to six (6) position levels. The changes in the position attributes of the non-entry-level Nurse positions were limited to the numerical suffixes as the SG allocations were retained.

On June 1, 2021, the Office of the President (OP), per Memorandum of the Executive Secretary, directed the DBM to take the necessary action to implement the upgrading of the former Nurse II position by one (1) SG, i.e., from SG-15 to SG-16, as well as the retention of the position titles of Nurse III to Nurse VII with their corresponding SGs.

In a separate Memorandum from the OP dated August 12, 2021, it was clarified that the upgrading of the former Nurse II positions shall apply to those covered under Item 3.0 of BC No. 2020-4, and shall be effective June 1, 2021.

2.0 Purpose

This Circular is issued to prescribe the rules and regulations on the upgrading of the previous Nurse II positions by one (1) SG, as well as to provide the administrative processes for the retention of the position titles of Nurse III to Nurse VII with their corresponding SG assignments.
3.0 Coverage

The Circular shall cover all previous Nurse II to Nurse VII positions, which position attributes were modified pursuant to DBM BC No. 2020-4, whether regular, casual, or contractual in nature, full-time or part-time, now existing or hereafter created in the national government agencies (NGAs), including GOCCs and GOCCs, and in LGUs covered by the Compensation and Position Classification System (CPCS) under RA No. 6758 or the "Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989," as amended.

4.0 Exclusions

The following are excluded from the coverage of this Circular:

4.1 Nurses in government agencies, including GOCCs, that are exempted from RA No. 6758, as amended, as expressly provided in their respective enabling law or charter, and are actually implementing their respective CPCS approved by the President of the Philippines;

4.2 Nurses in GOCCs covered by the CPCS established by the Governance Commission for GOCCs and approved by the President of the Philippines, under RA No. 10149 or the “GOCC Governance Act of 2011” and

4.3 Nurses hired without employee-employer relationship and funded from non-Personnel Services (PS) appropriations/budgets.

5.0 Modification in the Position Attributes of Nurse Positions

5.1 The position attributes of the following classes of Nurse positions are hereby modified effective June 1, 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior to BC No. 2020-4</th>
<th>BC No. 2020-4: January 1, 2020</th>
<th>Per OP Directive dated June 1, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position Title</td>
<td>SG</td>
<td>Position Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse III</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse IV</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nurse III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse V</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nurse IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse VI</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Nurse V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse VII</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nurse VI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.0 Upgrading of the Former Nurse II/SG-15 position

6.1 The SG allocation of the former Nurse II, SG-15 positions is hereby upgraded by one (1) SG effective not earlier than June 1, 2021, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior to BC No. 2020-4</th>
<th>BC No. 2020-4: January 1, 2020</th>
<th>Per OP Directive dated June 1, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position Title</td>
<td>SG</td>
<td>Position Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.0 Rules for Adjusting Salaries

7.1 The salaries of the incumbents of former Nurse II positions and currently occupying Nurse I/SG-15 items, i.e., those who were appointed as Nurse II prior to the implementation of BC No. 2020-4 shall be adjusted at the same salary steps as those of the previous SG allocation of their positions (Illustrative Examples A to D).

7.2 The new salary rates shall be in accordance with the Second Tranche Monthly Salary Schedule for Civilian Personnel of the National Government under National Budget Circular No. 584 dated January 6, 2021 or the modified salary schedule being implemented by a GOCC in case of insufficiency of corporate funds.

7.3 If supported by sufficient funds, the salaries/wages of contractual/casual nurses who were previously appointed as Nurse II before the implementation of BC No. 2020-4 may be adjusted to Step 1 of SG-16 of the applicable salary schedule.

7.4 For LGUs

7.4.1 The new salary rates shall be in accordance with the applicable Salary Schedule adopted by the LGU pursuant to the provisions of Item 6.5 of Local Budget Circular No. 132-Implementation of the Second Tranche of the Modified Salary Schedule for Local Government Personnel Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 11466 dated January 19, 2021.

7.4.2 The upgrading of the former Nurse II position, as well as the modification in position attributes of the other Nurse positions, are not within the purview of Section 325(f) of RA No. 7160 which provides that: "No changes in designation or nomenclature of positions resulting in a promotion or demotion in rank or increase or decrease in compensation shall be allowed, except when the position is actually vacant.xxx"

8.0 Administrative Procedures for NGAs

8.1 Retention of Nurse III to Nurse VII Positions

The DBM Offices concerned shall inform the agencies of the adjustment in the position attributes of existing Nurse positions in the agency’s respective Personnel Services Itemization and Plantilla of Personnel as a result of the retention of the Nurse III to Nurse VII position levels, with their corresponding SGs.

Upon receipt of the notice from the DBM, the agency's Human Resource Management Officer (HRMO)/Administrative Officer (AO) shall prepare the appointments of the affected incumbents, following the procedures prescribed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).
8.2 Upgrading of Former Nurse II Positions

8.2.1 The staffing action to implement the upgrading of the former Nurse II positions by one (1) SG shall be dependent on whether the position is filled or vacant.

For filled positions, the proper staffing action shall be reclassification from Nurse I, SG-15 to Nurse II, SG-16.

For vacant positions, the proper staffing action shall be conversion wherein the vacant Nurse I (formerly Nurse II) item shall be abolished, and in its stead, the creation of a Nurse II, SG-16 item shall be pursued. It is understood, however, that the conversion of the vacant Nurse II items shall not result in any excess Nurse II positions based on the existing prescribed staffing standards for government hospitals.

8.2.2 The NGAs shall submit a request to the DBM Office concerned for the reclassification and conversion of former Nurse II positions using the prescribed template marked as Annex "A" hereof.

Once validated by the DBM Office concerned, a Notice of Organization, Staffing and Classification Action (NOSCA) shall be issued reflecting the appropriate staffing action necessary for the upgrading of the former Nurse II positions.

8.2.3 Upon receipt of the NOSCA, the agency's HRMO/AO shall prepare the appointments of the affected incumbents, following the procedures prescribed by the CSC.

8.2.4 In addition, the HRMO/AO shall also prepare the Notices of Position Allocations and Salary Adjustment (NPASA) of the affected incumbents, following the format attached as Annex "B". The Head of Agency/Local Chief Executive shall issue a NPASA to each employee concerned.

The Government Service Insurance System shall be furnished a copy of the NPASA if the employee is a member thereof.

8.2.5 The salary adjustments of the former Nurse II position under this Circular shall be subject to review and post-audit, and to appropriate re-adjustment if found not in order. The recipient employees shall refund any overpayments received.

9.0 Fund Sources

9.1 For NGAs, the amounts required to implement the salary upgrading shall be charged against their available released PS allotments.

In case of PS deficiency, the agency may submit a request to the DBM for the release of funds chargeable against the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund under the FY 2021 General Appropriations Act.
9.2 For GOCCs, the amounts required shall be charged against their respective approved corporate operating budgets.

9.3 For LGUs:

9.3.1 The amounts required to implement the salary upgrading shall be charged exclusively to the funds of the LGUs, subject to the PS limitation in LGU budgets pursuant to Section 325(a) and 331(b) of RA No. 7160.

9.3.2 Such amounts shall be provided for in an appropriations ordinance to be enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan/Panlungsod/Bayan.

10.0 Responsibilities of Heads of Agencies/Local Chief Executives

Heads of Agencies/Local Chief Executives shall be responsible for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Circular. They shall be held liable for any payment of salary adjustment not in accordance with the provisions of this Circular.

11.0 Effectivity

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

TINA ROSE MARIE L. CANDA
Officer-in-Charge, DBM
Annex "A"

Request for Reclassification/Conversion of Positions
Pursuant to DBM Budget Circular (BC) No. 2020-4

Agency: ____________________

I. Reclassification of former Nurse II (now Nurse I): positions, i.e., those who were appointed as Nurse II prior to the implementation of BC No. 2020-4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizational Code</th>
<th>Prior to BC No. 2020-4</th>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Per BC No. 2020-4</th>
<th>FY 2021 PSIPOP</th>
<th>Current Position Title</th>
<th>Current SG</th>
<th>Salary Step</th>
<th>Name of Incumbent</th>
<th>Date of Appointment as Nurse II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Conversion of former Nurse II positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizational Code</th>
<th>Prior to BC No. 2020-4</th>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Per BC No. 2020-4</th>
<th>FY 2021 PSIPOP</th>
<th>Current Position Title</th>
<th>Current SG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepared by: ____________________  Endorsed by: ____________________

Human Resource Management/Administrative Officer  Head of Agency

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1 Modification of Nurse Positions
2 Upgrading of the Entry-Level of Nurse Positions
Notice of Position Allocation and Salary Adjustment

Date: ________________

Mr./Ms. ______________________
______________________________

Dear Mr./Ms. ______________________,

Pursuant to Budget Circular No. 2021-_____ dated August __________, 2021, your position of Nurse I, Salary Grade (SG)-15, Unique Item No. __________ in the (Name of Agency), FY 2021 Personnel Service Itemization and Plantilla of Personnel as of ________________, has been upgraded to Nurse II, SG-16 per Item 6.0 of said Circular. Your salary is hereby adjusted effective ________________, as follows:

1. Adjusted monthly basic salary effective ________
   SG-16, Step ________ P ________________

2. Actual monthly basic salary as of ________
   SG-15, Step ________ P ________________

3. Monthly Salary Adjustment P ________________

It is understood that this salary adjustment is subject to review and post-audit, and to appropriate re-adjustment and refund if found not in order.

Very truly yours,

______________________________
Head of Agency/Local Chief Executive
Illustrative Example A

Scenario: Ms. Juana dela Cruz, RN was originally appointed as Nurse I/SG-11 on January 1, 2015. After two (2) years, she was promoted as Nurse II/SG-15, effective February 1, 2017.

With the implementation of BC No. 2020-4, the item of the incumbent was modified to Nurse I/SG-15, effective January 1, 2020.

Pursuant to the OP directive and the provisions of this Circular, Ms. dela Cruz, RN will now be occupying the position of Nurse II/SG-16, effective June 1, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectivity Date</th>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Salary Grade/Step</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2015</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-11/Step 1</td>
<td>Original Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2017</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>BC No. 2020-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2021</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>SG-16/Step 1</td>
<td>Per OP Directive dated June 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illustrative Example B

Scenario: Mr. Juan dela Cruz, RN was originally appointed as Nurse I/SG-11 on January 1, 2015. After two (2) years, he was promoted as Nurse II/SG-15, effective February 1, 2017.

In April 1, 2019, Mr. dela Cruz, RN completed his post-graduate degree studies related to his profession. Pursuant to DBM-DOH Joint Circular No. 1, s. 2016, he is entitled to a one (1) salary step increment. Hence, his salary was adjusted to Step 2 of SG-15 on even date.

With the implementation of BC No. 2020-4, the item of the incumbent was modified to Nurse I/SG-15, Step 2, effective January 1, 2020.

Pursuant to the OP directive and the provisions of this Circular, Mr. dela Cruz, RN will now be occupying the position of Nurse II, SG-16, Step 2, effective June 1, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectivity Date</th>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Salary Grade/Step</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2015</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-11/Step 1</td>
<td>Original Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2017</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2019</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 2</td>
<td>Completion of Post-Graduate Studies (Item 4.0 of DBM-DOH JC No. 1, s. 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 2</td>
<td>BC No. 2020-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 1, 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nurse II</strong></td>
<td><strong>SG-16/Step 2</strong></td>
<td>Per OP Directive dated June 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Illustrative Example C**

*Scenario:* Ms. Juanita dela Cruz, RN was appointed as Nurse I/SG-15 on August 1, 2020.

As she was appointed as Nurse I after the implementation of BC No. 2020-4, her position will be retained as Nurse I/SG-15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectivity Date</th>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Salary Grade/Step</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1, 2020</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>Original Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2021</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>(no change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(no change)</td>
<td>(no change)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illustrative Example D

Scenario: Mr. Juan dela Cruz, RN was originally appointed as Nurse I/SG-10 on January 1, 2007. In view of NBC No. 521, the Nurse I position occupied by the incumbent was re-allocated from SG-10 to SG-11, effective July 1, 2009.

On April 1, 2013, Mr. dela Cruz, RN was promoted as Nurse II/SG-15.

With the implementation of BC No. 2020-4, his position was modified to Nurse I/SG-15. He was subsequently promoted as Nurse II/SG-17, effective August 1, 2020.

Pursuant to the OP directive and the provisions of this Circular, Mr. dela Cruz, RN will now be occupying the position of Nurse III/SG-17, effective June 1, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectivity Date</th>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Salary Grade/Step</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2007</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-10/Step 1</td>
<td>Original Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2009</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-11/Step 1</td>
<td>NBC No. 521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2013</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Nurse I</td>
<td>SG-15/Step 1</td>
<td>BC No: 2020-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1, 2020</td>
<td>Nurse II</td>
<td>SG-17/Step 1</td>
<td>Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2021</td>
<td>Nurse III</td>
<td>SG-17/Step 1</td>
<td>Per OP Directive dated June 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>