



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of the Secretary



BAGONG PILIPINAS

August 13, 2025

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2025 - 0360

FOR: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, HEADS OF ATTACHED AGENCIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, CHIEFS OF HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CENTERS, SANITARIA, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS, INSTITUTES, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: 9th Annual Post-Graduate Course of the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) on September 22-24, 2025 at the PHC Grounds, East Avenue, Quezon City

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is holding their 9th Annual Post-Graduate Course on September 22-24, 2025 at the PHC Grounds, East Avenue, Quezon City with the theme “Achieving the Pinnacle of Excellence (APEX) in Cardiovascular Care.”

In accordance with the Department Order No. 2007-0053, attendance to this activity of concerned **DOH Physicians** shall be on:

A. Official Business

1. When the attendee serves as a presenter, discussant, facilitator, moderator, or panelist, the registration or enrolment fees, per diem, traveling and other incidental expenses shall be borne by the sending office; **OR**
2. When the attendance or participation in the activity is related to the performance of job functions or in the practice of profession, and/or identified as a Learning and Development Intervention (LDI) based on the employee's Learning and Development Plan (LDP); **AND**
3. Subject to the office's availability of funds.

B. Official Time

1. When the attendee serves as a presenter, discussant, facilitator, moderator, panelist or participant in the said activity, duly funded through sponsorships by development partners or local partners in health.
2. For participants, the activity should be relevant to the performance of job functions or in the practice of profession, and/or identified as an LDI based on the employee's LDP.

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Attendees must secure authorization from their respective Directors or Heads of Office through an appropriate Personnel Order. Further, all other arrangements shall adhere to the following issuances:

- (1) Administrative Order (AO) No. 2021-0007, entitled "Guidelines on the Integrated Learning and Development Management System of the Department of Health (DOH)"; and
- (2) Department Order (DO) No. 2014-0094, entitled "Guidelines on the Allowable Rates of Payment for Human Resource Development Activities."

Attached is the invitation letter for your reference.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

Digitally signed
by Beltran
Maylene M. Beltran
MAYLENE M. BELTRAN, MPA, CESO III
Assistant Secretary of Health



PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
ADULT CARDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT
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Training Officer, Vascular Medicine Division

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Overall Chairman, 9th Annual Post Graduate Course

MARK JOSEPH M. ABACA, MD
Overall Head, 9th Annual Post-Graduate Course

TRACY GRACE MARIE A. GO, MD
RAY Z. PEREZ II, MD
Chief Fellows/Co-Chair

GIULIANI RENZ G. PAAS, MD
Head, Scientific Committee

KRISTINE C. URBINA, MD
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JOYCE F. DOMINGO, MD
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Head, Publicity and Documentation Committee

YZABEL NICOLE L. TUMBOCON, MD
Head, Academics Committee

April 10, 2025

TEODORO J. HERBOSA, MD
Secretary
Department of Health

Dear Secretary Herbosa,

Greetings of Peace!

The Philippine Heart Center - Department of Adult Cardiology will be holding its **9th ANNUAL POST-GRADUATE COURSE** on **September 22-24, 2025** in the Philippine Heart Center grounds with the theme **"Achieving the Pinnacle of EXcellence (APEX) in Cardiovascular Care"**. This 3-day face-to-face course will delve on the most commonly encountered cardiovascular diseases in our country and will likewise share the PHC experience in managing these diseases in celebration of its 50th founding year as leader of Philippines' Cardiovascular Care.

In line with this, with the aim to educate and empower more physicians, nurses and other allied health professionals across the country, we cordially **invite participation** of DOH institutions including Regional Heart Centers in this anticipated event.

Please see the attached program for further details. Should you have any questions, you may contact our Secretariat through **Dr. Joyce F. Domingo (+63 936 711 9528- VIBER and SMS)**. Registration on the said activity is **FREE**. A registration QR code will be provided through our social media account starting July, 2025.

We are hoping for your favorable response on this matter.

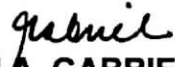
Warm regards,


MARK JOSEPH M. ABACA, MD
Overall Head
9th Postgraduate Course


TRACY GRACE MARIE A. GO, MD
Chief Fellow
Adult Cardiology Department

Noted by:


EDWIN S. TUCAY, MD
Chairperson, Training Faculty
Adult Cardiology Department


EDEN A. GABRIEL, MD
Officer-In-Charge
Adult Cardiology Department

CORE CURRICULUM FOR POSTGRADUATE COURSE 2025

Day 1: September 22, 2025

Main Plenary:

Acute Coronary Syndrome: The Philippine Heart Center Experience

Speaker: Dr. Rhandy P. Panganiban

Moderator: Dr. Bryan James T. Santos

Duration: 30-minute lecture (8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should be able to review the basic concepts in the management of acute coronary syndrome and learn how the Philippine Heart Center performs a systems-based practice in order to perform timebound interventions.

Specific objectives:

- To discuss the PIERCE registry of the Philippine Heart Center
- To give an overview of the Institution's monthly and annual census
- To give an overview of the STEMI and NSTEMI pathway and the Institution's adherence to the target outcomes

Subtopic #1

Acute Coronary Syndrome: From triaging to revascularization

Speaker: Dr. Eduardo L. Tin Hay

Moderator: Dr. Ralph Laurence A. Carandang

Duration: 20-minute lecture (10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should be able to learn the initial assessment, proper triaging, and risk stratification of patients suspected to have acute coronary syndrome

Specific objectives:

- To review the standards-of-care regarding the proper timing and goals of therapy for patients with acute coronary syndrome (STEMI, NSTEMI)
- To highlight how the institutional pathways of Philippine Heart Center has improved the clinical outcomes of patients with acute coronary syndrome
- To discuss the common roadblocks in achieving the timebound targets in managing patients with STEMI
- To give an overview for the designated regional heart centers on how they can initiate their local institutional pathways and apply it in their systems-based practice

Subtopic #3**Cardiac Rehabilitation in Acute Coronary Syndrome**

Speaker: Dr. Edgardo E. Ebba

Moderator: Dr. Benjamin Jose C. Quito

Duration: 20-minute lecture (10:40 to 11:00 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (11:00 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should be able to apply the concept of cardiac rehabilitation in managing their patients who had acute coronary syndrome.

Specific objectives:

- To introduce the role of cardiac rehabilitation and its impact in the cardiovascular outcomes of patients who had recent acute coronary syndromes
- To discuss the core components of a cardiac rehabilitation program: from initiation of the program and maintenance at the outpatient setting
- To discuss how clinicians can utilize the cardiac rehabilitation program and its inclusion in the PhilHealth packages for acute coronary syndromes

Subtopic #4**Multimodality imaging and approach to Chronic Coronary Syndrome**

Format: Panel Discussion

Speakers:

- Dr. Tamara Louise R. Cuenza (CT-MRI)
 - o Second option: Dr. Margaret B. Rosete-Advento
- Dr. Mary Amie Gelina E. Dumatol (Nuclear Medicine)

Moderator: Dr. Myla Gloria S. Supe

Duration: 20-minute lecture on CT-MRI and its role in CCS (1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.); 20-minute lecture on Nuclear Imaging and its role in CCS (1:20 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.); 20-minute panel discussion (11:00 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should grasp a knowledge regarding the concept of multimodality imaging approach in the management of chronic coronary syndromes and clinch the proper triaging and approach to therapy

Specific objectives:

- To give an overview regarding the role of CT-MRI in the approach to patients suspected to have coronary artery disease
- To discuss the practical application of nuclear imaging in the diagnosis and risk stratification of patients with chronic coronary syndrome
- To discuss the role of CT-MRI and nuclear imaging in viability testing among patients with chronic coronary syndrome

Day 2: September 23, 2025

Main Plenary: Valvular Heart Disease in the Philippines – The Philippine Heart Center Valve Registry

Speaker: Dr. Sharon Marisse A. Lacson

Moderator: Dr. Maria Christie D. Mendoza-Reyes

Duration: 30-minute lecture (8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should learn the current status of valvular heart disease in the Filipino population

Specific objectives:

- To discuss the major valvular pathologies affecting the Filipino people based on the Valve Registry of the Philippine Heart Center
- To identify the risk factors associated with common valvular diseases among Filipinos

- To give an overview regarding the services offered by the Philippine Heart Center to address valvular heart diseases in the country
- To provide an overview of how the Philippine Heart Center collects data for its Valve Registry and how the designated regional heart centers could adapt it in their system in order to contribute to the wealth of data for the country

Breakout Session #1

Evaluation, Screening, and Management of Valvular Heart Disease

Format: Panel Discussion

Speakers:

- Dr. Maria Johanna Jaluage-Villanueva (Non-invasive Cardiology)
- Dr. Dodee Nino V. Rigor (Invasive Cardiology)

Moderator: Dr. Edward Niño J. Gacrama

Duration: 20-minute lecture on the evaluation and screening of patients with suspected valvular heart disease (9:10 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.); 20-minute lecture on screening and evaluation of patients for PTMC in Rheumatic Mitral Stenosis (9:20 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.); 10-minute panel discussion (9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.)

First lecture: Evaluation and Screening of Patients with Valvular Heart Disease

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should learn how to diagnose, evaluate, and refer patients with suspected valvular heart diseases

Specific objectives:

- To learn the pertinent information that must be obtained from the clinical history and physical examination of patients suspected to have a valvular heart disease
- To know the appropriate diagnostic evaluation, monitoring, as well as therapeutic medical management of patients suspected to have valvular heart disease
- To identify patients with valvular heart disease who will need a referral to a specialty cardiovascular center for intervention

Second lecture: Screening and Evaluation of Patients with Rheumatic Mitral Stenosis prior to Percutaneous Transvenous Mitral Commissurotomy: The Philippine Heart Center Experience

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should be able to familiarize how to screen patients who can be eligible candidates for PTMC for a timely referral to a cardiovascular center

Specific objectives:

- To review the current recommendations from international guidelines regarding PTMC as a definitive therapy for patients with Severe Rheumatic Mitral Stenosis
- To discuss the indications and contraindications in performing PTMC
- To help clinicians screen RHD patients who are eligible for PTMC
- To tackle complex issues regarding PTMC: high valve score, patients with LA thrombus
- To discuss the natural history, prognosis, and proper monitoring of patients with rheumatic mitral stenosis who underwent PTMC

Breakout Session #2

Acute Decompensated Aortic Stenosis

Format: Interactive Discussion

Duration: 40 minutes (case-based discussion); 10 minutes (question and answer)

Speakers:

- Dr. Timothy C. Dy (Invasive Cardiology)
- Dr. Jhoanna G. Marcelo (Invasive Cardiology)
- Dr. Ronaldo H. Estacio (Invasive Cardiology)
- Dr. Chito C. Permejo (Cardiac Critical Care)

Moderator: Dr. Kent Anthony L. Tan

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should recognize patients with acute decompensated aortic stenosis and properly triage them to specialized centers of care

Specific objectives:

- To recognize a patient with severe aortic stenosis with cardiogenic shock, based on clinical parameters and risk stratify based on the Society of Cardiac Angiography and Intervention Classification
- To know how to properly triage patients for balloon aortic valvuloplasty in cases of cardiogenic shock
- To recognize the clinical factors to consider in selecting a definitive therapy, i.e., surgical vs. transcatheter aortic valve replacement, for a patient with acute decompensated aortic stenosis
- To know the proper monitoring of patients after a definitive intervention

Main Plenary: Congenital Heart Disease: The Philippine Scenario

Speaker: Dr. Ramon M. Pineda

Moderator: Dr. Jericho De Leon

Duration: 20-minute lecture (10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (10:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should have an overview regarding the management of common congenital heart diseases and timely referral to cardiovascular centers

Specific objectives:

- To learn the current picture of congenital heart diseases in the Philippines
- To know the pertinent clinical information, i.e., history and physical examination, that must be obtained when screening patients with suspected congenital heart diseases
- To familiarize the indications for timely referral of patients with congenital heart disease in a specialized center for cardiovascular care
- To recognize the challenges in the management of congenital heart diseases in the Philippines

Subtopic #1:

Considerations of device and surgical interventions in patients with congenital heart disease

Format: Panel Discussion

Speakers:

- Dr. Emmett Vi G. Ladlad-Pua (Non-invasive Cardiology)
- Dr. Karyn P. Luna (TCVS; Pediatric Congenital Heart Disease Specialist)

Moderator: Dr. Rowena Cacas-Rebollido

Duration: 15-minute lecture on device interventions for patients with congenital heart diseases (10:30 to 10:45 a.m.); 15-minute lecture on surgical considerations in patients with congenital heart diseases (10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should be able to triage patients who will need either device or surgical intervention for congenital heart diseases

Specific objectives:

- To recognize patients with congenital heart diseases who will need urgent intervention
- To familiarize the anatomical and clinical factors that should be accounted prior to a device therapy
- To familiarize the anatomical and clinical factors that should be considered prior to triaging patients for surgical correction
- To learn the complications of device and surgical interventions in congenital heart diseases
- To learn the proper monitoring of patients with congenital heart diseases post-intervention

Subtopic #2

Transitioning from Pediatric to Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinics

Format: Panel Discussion

Speakers:

- Dr. Aurora Muriel S. Gamponia (Pediatric Cardiology)
- Dr. Catherine C. Tan (Invasive Cardiology)

Moderator: Dr. Melanie Lopez (Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care)

Duration: 20-minute lecture on transitioning from pediatric to adult care (11:10 to 11:30 a.m.); 20-minute lecture on Considerations in Adult Care Congenital Clinic [interventions, complications to look for] (11:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should understand the proper process of transitioning a patient with congenital heart disease from pediatric to adult care clinic and apply it in their respective practice as clinicians

Specific objectives:

- To know the proper clinical information needed by the adult congenital heart disease specialist from the pediatric clinic
- To recognize the proper age and timing of transition and referral to adult congenital heart disease clinic
- To know the subsequent interventions that must be done in the adult stage of patient with congenital heart disease
- To know the complications of congenital heart disease among patients who reached adulthood

Day 3: September 24, 2025

Main Plenary: Vascular Emergencies: The Philippine Heart Center Experience

Speaker: Dr. Joel S. Paz

Moderator: Dr. Jeffrey P. Mendoza

Duration: 30-minute lecture (8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience must recognize the most common vascular emergencies in clinical practice and properly triage them towards definitive therapy

Specific objectives:

- To determine pertinent clinical information from the history and physical examination in a patient suspected to have a vascular emergency
- To provide clinical case scenarios that will help clinicians in their initial management and proper triaging of patients with vascular emergencies to specialized centers of care
- To present the current census and registry of vascular emergencies in the Philippine Heart Center

- To provide specialists from regional heart centers, as well as other medical institutions, a glimpse of the vascular emergency pathways of the Philippine Heart Center that aim to meet timely management and improve clinical outcomes

Subtopic #1

Aortic Dissection: Walking through ER to the OR

Format: Interactive Discussion

Duration: 40 minutes (9:10 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. - case-based discussion); 10 minutes (question and answer)

Speakers:

- Dr. Rosella S. Arellano (Peripheral Vascular Medicine)
- Dr. Rowena L. Ona (Invasive Cardiology, Endovascular and Peripheral Vascular Intervention)
- Dr. Aquileo D. Rico (TCVS, Vascular Surgery)

Moderator:

- Dr. Frederick Allen L. Fuentes

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience must recognize how to manage patients with aortic dissection from the first contact to the emergency room until planning for intervention

Specific objectives:

- To recognize the clinical features in the history and physical examination that may warrant suspicion of an acute aortic syndrome
- To recognize the blood pressure and heart rate target among patients with aortic dissection prior to surgical or endovascular intervention
- To familiarize the medical management of patients with aortic dissection prior to transfer to a specialized cardiovascular center
- To familiarize the most important imaging modality in the assessment of aortic dissection that will aid in proper triaging of patients for definitive intervention
- To have an overview of the clinical and anatomic features that must be considered in planning for endovascular or open surgical repair of aortic dissection

Subtopic #2

Managing Post-operative Complications among Patients who Underwent Vascular Surgeries

Format: Panel Discussion

- Each speaker will provide a 10-minute fast overview of the neurologic, renal, and gastro complications post-abdominal surgery/intervention

Duration: 30 minutes (brief highlights – 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.); 10 minutes (question and answer)

Speakers:

- Dr. Maricar P. Yumul (Stroke Neurology)
- Dr. Amerigo S. Bautista, Jr. (Adult Nephrology)
- Dr. Gentry A. Dee (Adult Gastroenterology)

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Ann L Cantre

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience must recognize the most important complications of vascular surgeries in the brain, kidney, and gut

Specific objectives:

- To recognize neurologic complications among patients after a vascular surgery
- To recognize renal complications among patients after a vascular surgery
- To recognize the impact of intra-abdominal hypertension among patients after a vascular surgery
- To learn the basic management strategies to address multiorgan complications after a vascular surgery
- To know the proper timing and referral to subspecialists to timely address post-operative complications

Main Plenary:

Conduction Abnormalities in the Filipino Population: The Philippine Heart Center Experience

Duration: 20 minutes (10:40 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.); 10 minutes (question and answer)

Speaker: Dr. Eden A. Gabriel

Moderator: Dr. Joseph Marc S. Seguban

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience should learn the spectrum of cardiac conduction abnormalities and how the Philippine Heart Center has provided services to the Filipino people

Specific objectives:

- To provide an overview of the annual census of cardiac conduction abnormalities in the Philippines
- To provide an overview of the services that the Electrophysiology Division is offering to the society
- To recognize patients who will need urgent interventions for pacemaker and ICD implantation and RFA

Subtopic #1

Device Therapies in Heart Failure

Duration: 20-minute lecture (11:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.); 10-minute question and answer (11:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.)

General objective:

- At the end of the lecture, the audience must be able to recognize, and risk stratify their patients with heart failure who will benefit for device therapies

Specific objectives:

- To learn how to stratify patients who are at risk for sudden cardiac death
- To recognize patients with heart failure who will need certain device therapies (ICD, CRT-D) to prevent sudden cardiac death and improve quality-of-life
- To know the indications for ICD placement among patients with heart failure
- To know the indications for CRT-D implantation among patients with heart failure
- To learn the post-procedural monitoring of heart failure patients who underwent device implantation to prevent sudden cardiac death