

PAO MISSION GUIDELINES

Committee on Community Ophthalmology – Missions Coordinating Center
Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology
(REVISED September 2016)

“MY COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY”

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2016-2017

President: Sherman O. Valero, MD
Vice President: Jessica Marie R. Abaño, MD
Secretary: Ma. Margarita L. Luna, MD
Treasurer: Maria Victoria A. Rondaris, MD, MPH

Councilors:

Irwin C. Arribas, MD
Fay Charmaine S. Cruz, MD
Nilo Vincent D. FlorCruz II, MD
Richard C. Kho, MD
Marie Joan V. Loy, MD
Shelley Ann M. Mangahas, MD, MHA
Andrea Kristina Monzon- Pajarillo, MD
Ma. Donna D. Santiago, MD, MBA

Immediate Past President: Ruben Lim Bon Siong, MD

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY

Chair: Maria Victoria A. Rondaris, MD, MPH
Members: Jubaida Mangondato-Aquino, MD
Fay Charmaine S. Cruz, MD
Ulysses G. Galang, MD
Heriberto P. Guballa, MD
Ma. Shiela S. Jimenez, MD
Shelley Ann M. Mangahas, MD, MHA
Andrea Kristina Monzon- Pajarillo, MD

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The goal of these guidelines is mainly **to empower the local PAO Chapter society to conduct eye health services in underserved/unserved communities in their areas in collaboration with various stakeholders**. This is achieved through:

1. increased participation of local ophthalmologists in his area in sight preservation activities
2. strengthened and sustained collaborative efforts of stakeholders in eye programs in the community
3. protect the welfare of all Filipinos who need quality eye health services
4. collect data for monitoring and evaluation purposes

For decades, **Short Term Medical Missions (STMMs)** are recognized ways of providing health care to a developing area. These are temporary health care services, usually given free to underserved communities by the sponsoring entity. This sponsor may be a government unit, a government official, a private philanthropic individual or group, a private NGO and non-profit institution or even a for-profit institution that uses its resources for a philanthropic purpose. Foreign based organizations also conduct these missions and may provide purely medical, surgical, dental services or a multispecialty that includes, optometric service and livelihood projects. Eye missions and outreach endeavors, whether they are solely for eye health or as part of a multi-specialty service have always aimed to provide community service with the hope of improving the human condition by helping to develop the local health care delivery system. In the course of these activities, others are involved in education and professional development.

In meeting these guidelines, an eye doctor participating in a STMM must provide good clinical care by applying their clinical skills, knowledge and experience to practice. One should:

1. Ensure that patients are treated according to the priority of their clinical need.
2. Take full responsibility for patient management, leading the surgical team to provide best care. Responsibility should encompass preoperative optimization and postoperative recovery.
3. When providing elective care for patients with non-urgent conditions, carry out procedures that lie within the limits of your competence and the range of your routine practice, and refer where necessary.
4. Carry out surgical procedures in a timely, safe and competent manner, and ensure that current clinical guidelines in Ophthalmology are followed.
5. Ensure that, when the patient is discharged from the health facility where the mission was conducted, appropriate information is shared with the patient, the patient's supporters and the extended care team.

PROCESS:

1. All organizations contemplating to hold STMMs (FOREIGN AND LOCAL) in a particular area must inform the PAO Secretariat through a letter of intent **AT LEAST 8 WEEKS PRIOR** to intended date of mission and submit copies of special temporary permits (STPs) from the Philippine Regulatory Commission (www.prc.gov.ph) for foreign missions (R.A. 8981 and PRC Resolution no. 668, series 2012). Likewise, foreign missions also coordinate with the Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of International Health Cooperation (A.O. 2012-0030) before contacting PAO Secretariat.

The letter of intent should be properly dated and signed by Department Chair or Mission Head. Please address the letter to PAO President, thru the Chair of PAO Community Ophthalmology Committee, PAO Mission Coordinating Center.

IMPORTANT: Foreign professionals must secure STPs for a provisional license to practice the profession in the country. Examples of professions that need STPs are medical doctors, nurses, optometrists, etc.

2. The LOCAL OPHTHALMOLOGIST and the Chapter President (of which the local ophthalmologist is a chapter member thereof) where the STMM shall be conducted **MUST BE INFORMED** by the mission organizer/sponsor (whether local or foreign) thereafter, and invited to join the activity through writing.

A Local Ophthalmologist is defined as a PAO member who

- o Holds regular intervals of eye consultation and examination in an eye clinic in the area for at least 6 months (pls. refer to the definition of eye clinic in the STANDARDS of care)
- o **MUST** be a member of A PAO local chapter society

3. Upon receipt of the letter of intent and the STPs (for foreign sponsored missions), the MISSION COORDINATING CENTER provides PAO MISSION FORMS to the mission sponsor and they must accomplish and submit within a specified period of time. These forms are part of the monitoring and evaluation of the conduct of the mission and the eye doctors who will be part of the endeavor.

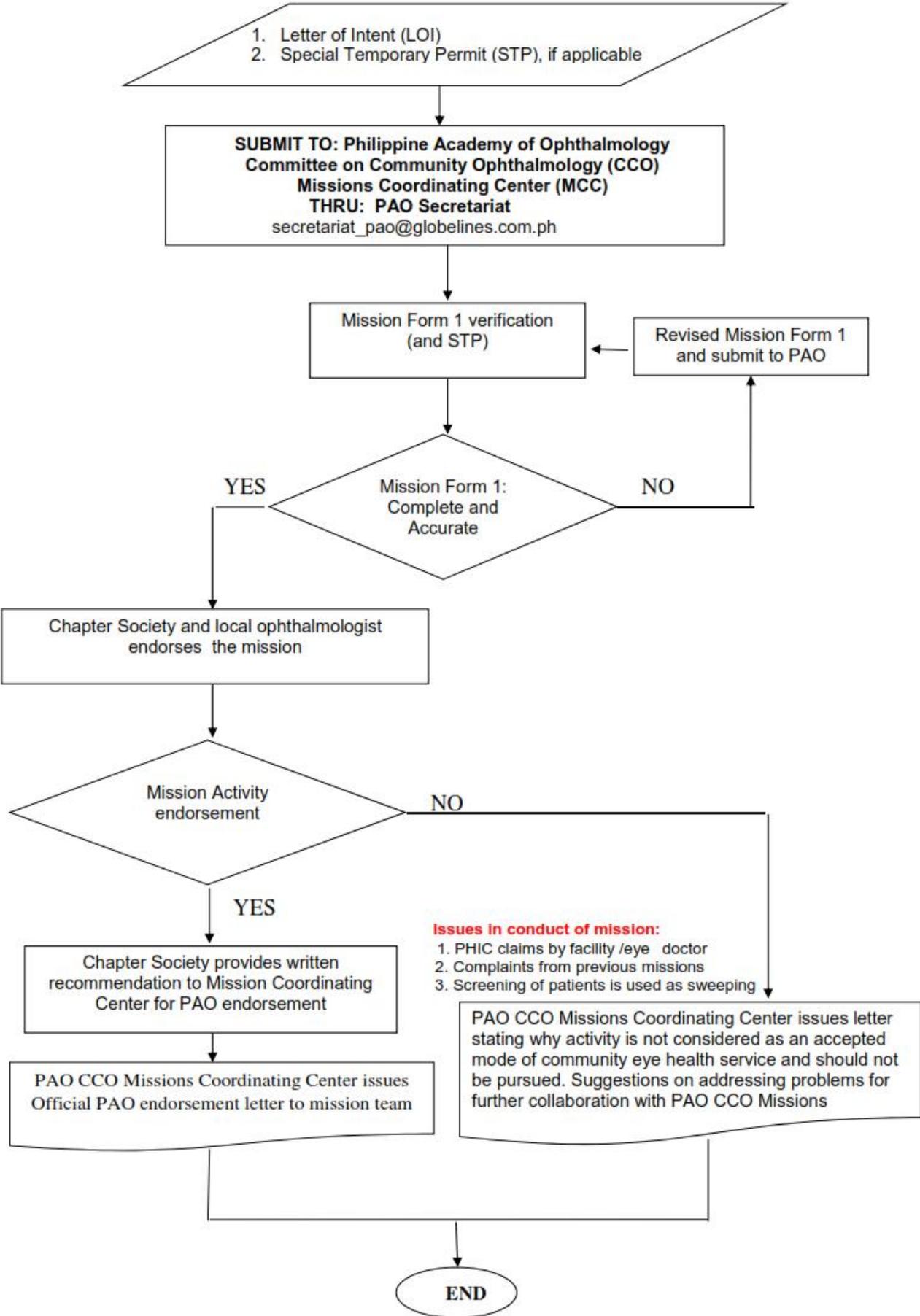
FORM 1 – MISSION INFORMATION SHEET – submitted as soon as completely accomplished

FORM 2 – PATIENT DATA LIST - list of screened patients for the mission; submitted 6 weeks PRIOR to the mission

FORM 3 – MISSION OUTPUT REPORT - list of surgeries done and submitted 1 week AFTER the mission

4. The Philippine National Health Insurance (PHILHEALTH) mandates that ALL MISSIONS are NON REIMBURSIBLE. The PAO Mission forms are likewise submitted to the Philhealth for current information on the conduct of STMMs nationwide.

MISSION ENDORSEMENT PROCESS



Role and Responsibilities of the PAO Chapters

The PAO obliges all local chapter societies and its members to adhere to “*My Community, My responsibility*” through regular sustained eye health activities in their area of coverage with proper coordination to the Mission Coordinating Center and collaboration with pre-determined stakeholders.

Organizations visiting the mission site must apply best practices in order to make a significant, high-impact difference in the health of the beneficiaries and that includes camaraderie and skills transfer to the local eye doctors. Surgery provided by visiting eye doctors without collaboration with local ophthalmologist/s is considered one of the worst practices in global health. Even the most experienced eye doctors cannot overcome the significant harm and risks of short-term surgical missions. When visiting surgeons do not work with their local counterparts, there is no surgeon to provide follow-up care or to treat infections that may arise after the operating surgeons depart. In addition, the ramifications of botched surgeries affect more than just the surgical patients and their families. A poor surgical outcome can lead an entire community or region to fear doctors and surgery. Hence, it is also the responsibility of the PAO Local chapter to coordinate sponsored eye health services in his area. If and when for some reason the local chapter declines participation, the PAO Missions Coordinating Center must be advised and the reason/s stated accordingly and the latter shall have the final decision.

PAO Chapters must collate and submit to the Community Ophthalmology Committee the following EVERY QUARTER:

- a. number of missions participated and the localities and hospitals where these were held
- b. number and type of eye surgeries performed, names of participating local eye doctors
- c. other sight preservation activities like health education, screenings, etc.

These data are required to monitor the impact of prevention of blindness activities within the area, help determine cataract surgical rate and shall serve as basis for determining whether the area is served, underserved and un-served.

VIOLATIONS OF GUIDELINES

Unethical practices and/or violation of set standards of care by PAO members shall be dealt with accordingly by the PAO Ethics Committee. Anyone can write an incident report accompanied by necessary evidences to the PAO Mission Coordinating Center. This report shall be decided upon by the committee for appropriate action.