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**CIRCULAR NO. 191**  
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Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments and Chief Executive Officers are asked to bring to the attention of officers in their Ministries/Departments/Agencies, the following information regarding the criteria for the transfer of staff from the **Regional Health Authorities** to **Central Government**.

In 1997, the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) embarked on a restructuring of the Health Service and this resulted in the creation of the Regional Health Authorities under the National Health Services Act.

Officers in the Primary and Secondary Health Care System were seconded from the Ministry of Health to the Regional Health Authorities and subsequently transferred to the Authorities with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2007 in keeping with Section 4 (3) of the National Health Services Act which reads:

**“The Governor General may, subject to such conditions as he may impose, approve the appointment of any officer in the service of the Government to any office with the Authority and any officer so appointed shall, while so employed, in relation to any pension, gratuity or retiring benefits and in relation to other rights as a public officer, be treated as continuing in the service of the Government.”**

This circular is to address concerns as to whether officers who were transferred from Central Government and appointed in the Regional Health Authority are required to resign from the Authority in order to take up an appointment within Central Government.

- A.** The following are criteria **to qualify for transfer** from the Regional Health Authority to Central Government:
- i.** The officer on transfer to the Regional Health Authority must have opted to remain on the Government's non-contributory Pension Scheme.
  - ii.** Must not be contributing to the Authority's Pension Scheme or any other.
  - iii.** Must have been transferred under Section 4 (3) of the National Health Services Act.
  - iv.** Must have been appointed in Central Government prior to his/her transfer to the Authority.

Such officer will upon satisfactory assessment for a post in Central Government be eligible to:

- i. be reappointed in Central Government without having to resign from the Authority.
- ii. have his/her service remain unbroken.
- iii. continue on the Government's non-contributory Pension Scheme.

**B.** Transfer is **not** allowed under the following circumstances:

- i. An officer who was transferred to the Authority and opted not to remain on the Government's non-contributory Pension Scheme and joined another scheme.
- ii. An officer who was not permanently appointed in Central Government and accepted employment in the Authority.
- iii. An officer who was employed directly by the Authority.

These persons are required to resign from the Authority prior to accepting employment in Central Government.

A copy of this circular should be placed at a strategic position on the **Notice Board** of the Ministry/Department.

**Please ensure that this circular is brought to the attention of all eligible officers.**

  
Lois Parkes, PhD  
Chief Personnel Officer