



Republic of the Philippines  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**  
 Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City  
 Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph



**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 26 s-2005

**TO :** ALL ACCREDITED HOSPITALS AND ALL CONCERNED

**SUBJECT :** Requirement for Accredited Hospitals to be "Mother-Baby Friendly Hospitals"

Breastfeeding is essential for the health of the newborn and the mother. It is also the most inexpensive and practical means of feeding the newborn. Global attempts to encourage, promote, and support breastfeeding through the WHO/UNICEF's *Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative* have been successfully implemented in several countries worldwide. The Philippines supports this effort through Republic Act (R.A.) 7600, otherwise known as "The Rooming-in and Breastfeeding Act of 1992".

In order to ensure the implementation of R.A. 7600, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) will require its accredited hospitals to be "Mother-Baby Friendly Hospital". The said requirement will apply to institutional health care providers' application (renewal/initial) on the following dates:

Hospital Category	Effectivity Date
Tertiary hospitals	October 2005
Secondary hospitals	January 2006
Primary hospitals <i>that operate with a delivery room</i>	

Inability of hospitals to comply is a violation of R.A. 7600 and could be a ground for the denial of accreditation.

*Lorna O. Fajardo*  
**LORNA O. FAJARDO**  
 Officer-In-Charge  
 Office of the President and CEO

Date signed: OCT 11 2005

