



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. 19, s-2007

TO : ALL ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, CLAIMS DEPARTMENT, AND ALL OFFICES CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Implementing Guidelines for PhilHealth Circular No. 17 s.2007

Pursuant to PhilHealth Circular No. 17, s.2007 which provides for the "discontinuance of compensability of claims for cataract surgery performed during medical missions and thru other recruitment schemes and limiting the number of compensable claims for cataract surgery," the Corporation shall adopt the following guidelines for implementation:

1. For the purpose of this policy, PhilHealth refers to the definition of the following terms:
 - "MEDICAL MISSION" or "CATARACT MISSION" is an outreach program for humanitarian / non-profit purposes that provides free cataract surgery to people of all ages who have limited or no means to pay.
 - "CATARACT SURGERY" is the removal of the lens of the eye that has developed an opacification, which is referred to as a cataract. Following surgical removal of the natural lens, an artificial intraocular lens is implanted. Cataract surgery is generally performed by an ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) at an ambulatory or inpatient setting, in a surgical center or hospital, using local anesthesia (either topical, peribulbar, or retrobulbar) or general anesthesia in special circumstances. The cataract surgeries with RVS code shall include the following:

RVS Code	Procedure
66825	Repositioning of intraocular lens prosthesis, requiring an incision
66830	Removal of secondary membranous cataract (opacified posterior lens capsule and/or anterior hyaloid) with corneo-scleral section, w/ or w/o iridectomy (iridocapsulotomy, iridocapsulectomy)
66840	Removal of lens material: aspiration technique, one or more stages
66850	phacofragmentation technique (mechanical or ultrasonic) (e.g. phacoemulsification)
66852	pars plana approach, with or without vitrectomy
66920	intracapsular
66930	intracapsular, for dislocated lens
66940	extracapsular
66983	Intracapsular cataract extraction w/ insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure)
66984	Extracapsular cataract removal w/ insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure), (irrigation and aspiration)
66985	Insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis, not associated with cataract removal
66986	Exchange of intraocular lens
66987	Extracapsular cataract removal w/ insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure), (e.g. phacoemulsification)

Records Management Section
 MARIA TERESA A. GUIAON
 Records Officer
 Date: 11/19/07
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2. All claims (includes PAO- National- and LGU-sponsored) for cataract surgeries shall not be compensated if performed under any of the following conditions:

- 2.1. The health care provider/s (professional and/or institution) solicit/s patients through any means or form or through any medium that violates the code of ethics of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology; i.e., he/she offers to or receives from a fellow physician, allied health professional or independent solicitor any fee(s) or favor(s) for the purpose of obtaining patients.
- 2.2. Medical missions in which a health care provider has linked up with a non-government organization or an institution in the guise of charity or community service for the sole purpose of soliciting PhilHealth patients.
- 2.3. Medical missions limited to PhilHealth members / beneficiaries only
- 2.4. Medical missions done for profit or anything that brings profit but does not promote the best interest of the patient
- 2.5. The health care provider/s (professional and/or institution) solicit/s patients through other recruitment schemes for the purpose of enrollment to PhilHealth.

3. The compensability of claims in PAO-sponsored and recognized community-based cataract surgery projects shall be subject to additional provisions in the Memorandum of Agreement between PhilHealth and PAO.


4. National Government or Local Government Unit (LGU)-sponsored missions conducted in any PhilHealth-accredited government facility shall be compensable subject to provisions in item no. 2. The professional fees shall be pooled subject to provisions stipulated in Rule VIII (Payment of Claims) Section 47 of Implementing Rules and Regulations of PhilHealth.


5. Any indication/s or report/s of pattern/s, indicative that such claims were done through the use of recruitment schemes, or during the conduct of a medical mission, unless herein specified, shall cause suspension of processing of claims pending legal investigation.

6. Identified erring PhilHealth-accredited providers shall be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Practice Management of PAO for appropriate action without prejudice to further action of the Corporation.

7. PhilHealth-accredited providers (both professional and institutional providers) found to have violated this circular, after due process, shall be recommended for non-renewal or suspension or revocation of accreditation.

All other issuances inconsistent herein are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.


LORNA O. FAJARDO
Acting President & CEO
Date Signed 16 November 2007

	Records Management Sect.
	MARIA TERESA A. QUIJANO Records Officer III
	Date: <u>11/19/07</u>
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