

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2004, RA 9241 amended RA 7875, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995, and mandated the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), in coordination with the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the National Institutes of Health of the University of the Philippines, (UP-NIH), to undertake studies to validate the accomplishments of the National Health Insurance Program.

To fulfill this mandate, this paper has the following objectives:

Main Objective: To design a systematic evaluation and validation system of the performance, accomplishments and impact of the National Health Insurance Program with respect to its objectives and goals, as provided for under Section 54 of RA 7875 as amended by RA 9241.

Specific Objectives: The outputs of this paper are:

1. A Validation Framework for the evaluation of PhilHealth performance.
2. Key Performance Indicators for PhilHealth for the conduct of baseline studies based on the validation framework.
3. A PhilHealth Research Agenda

METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was used to define the validation framework: 1. a review of literature on past researches about PhilHealth and Social Health Insurance done here and abroad; 2. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) of PhilHealth officers, health experts, Local Chief Executives, chief of hospitals and service providers and 3. Focus Group discussions (FGDs,) with members of the Sponsored program. KIIs and FGDs were done in one region each for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to minimize Manila-centric bias.

The identified processes of the PhilHealth were analyzed through the lenses of the five health policy goals: Equity, Quality, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Sustainability. Small group discussions (NIH Technical Working Groups) were organized along these five policy goals and identified performance indicators and research priorities per policy goal.

The preliminary results were presented in a PhilHealth Colloquium last May 10, 2005 which was attended by the major stakeholders involved with PhilHealth.

Based on the recommendations of the colloquium, the validation framework for PhilHealth performance was modified. To provide a consistent framework for the five health policy goals, the WHO framework of Carrin and James for Social Health Insurance (Guy Carrin and Chris James, WHO Health Financing Policy Issue Paper, 2004) was adapted to the concrete conditions and experience of the Philippine National Health Insurance Program.

Key performance indicators and research areas were identified, prioritized and finalized by the NIH Technical Working Groups in consultation with the Interagency Evaluation team of NEDA, NSO and NIH. The resultant Indicators and Research agenda took into consideration the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, the updated DOH National Objectives for Health, Health Sector Reform Agenda and PhilHealth's Medium Term Plan.

Results

The final results are tabulated in the following tables:

Figure 1 shows the Validation Framework for evaluating PhilHealth Performance. Key performance areas were identified from the mandate of RA 7875 as amended by RA 9241 and as detailed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of PhilHealth. The WHO Social Health Insurance Evaluation Framework of Carrin and James was adapted with the merging of these identified key performance areas. Using the lens of the health policy goals: equity, effectiveness, efficiency, quality and sustainability, key performance indicators and a research agenda regarding PhilHealth performance were identified.

Table 1 shows the identified key performance areas based on an adaptation of the WHO Evaluation Framework of a Social Health Insurance Program. The resultant particularized PhilHealth Validation Framework is a one stage evaluation process that includes the accreditation process and indicators regarding the role of PhilHealth in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, the updated DOH National Objectives for Health and the Health Sector Reform Agenda.

Table 2 lists the Key Performance Indicators for PhilHealth for a baseline study and subsequent evaluation studies done every three years.

Table 3 lists a shortened selection of Key Performance Indicators that we have called "Dashboard Indicators". Dashboard indicators are similar to Infant Mortality Rates and Maternal Mortality Rates for Health Status, which

give a quick indication of the "health" of the PhilHealth Program. These indicators can be measured annually.

Table 4 shows a summary of the PhilHealth Research Priorities.

Table 5 shows a summary of the budget for the Validation Study and the PhilHealth Research Agenda.