

Policy Brief

Introduction

Identifying an alternative document as basis of proof of income of UHC Law's Direct Contributors /DCs (Self Earning / Practicing Professionals) was the focus of this group's (Group5) research.

Methodology

The group made in-depth interviews with eleven (11) out of the originally targeted twenty (20) PhilHealth front line offices, the Local Health Insurance Offices/ LHIOs, with pre-set of questions but topics would not be limited with said questionnaires. The interviewed LHIOs were selected by their Regional Vice Presidents. The LHIO staff interviewed were mostly the LHIO heads. They consented to be interviewed and they were informed that their identities will be withheld to protect them from any scrutiny.

To expand the research, the group also interviewed some BIR and SS offices in Region II and Region IV.

Results and Discussion

Results showed that LHIOs adhered to implementing PhilHealth Circular 2020-001 which popularized duly signed and filled out PhilHealth Membership Registration Form/ PMRF as sufficient proof of the declaration of income with Income tax return /ITR (mostly medical practitioners) as the second most commonly submitted document. Other documents that were listed as proof of income in the mentioned Circular were not frequently submitted. All of the LHIOs recommended that the mentioned Circular should be amended or revised specifically on the list of required documents on proof of income.

BIR offices suggested that ITR should be the prime document to be required for PhilHealth's DCs. They also recommended that basis for the computation of income should be the net income and not the gross income.

Dear Group 5

Grade B

Thank you for your submission. Your policy brief is very straightforward and to the point, which is one of the key aspects of writing a policy brief, as well as gives great focus on the results and discussion. However, it is still vital to include several other components in creating a policy brief such as an expounded discussion on the group's introduction, that is; identifying not just the goal of the study but also the reasons on why you have settled on these goal/s. Further context you may include in this section could be a summarized version of the research questions, and the research objectives.

Moreover, although the results were discussed, there was no discussion on the group's Recommendations. The recommendations are among the most vital components in curating a policy brief as this is what the policy makers will focus on. We also suggest that the group also includes the names of members of the group/authors of the policy brief. Regardless, congratulations and good job!