

CY 2023 Accomplishment Report of the Benefits Committee

Approved by the Benefits Committee on January 16, 2024

The Benefits Committee is a sub-committee under the PhilHealth Board whose main responsibility is to provide policy directions and set a medium-term benefits development agenda, including a review of the provider payment mechanism, in line with the progressive realization of Universal Health Care (UHC) law. It also evaluates proposed and current benefit designs, monitor the overall utilization and performance reports of healthcare providers to consider all Audit Committee findings with benefit policy implications, and recommend corrective action to the Board or provide policy directions to the Health Finance Policy Sector.¹

PhilHealth was confronted with many major challenges during CY 2023. The Benefits Committee in its commitment to provide policy directions on healthcare benefits approved innovative policies toward the realization of the Universal Health Care law as follows:

I. Strategies to Offset Expected Shortfall from the Suspension of CY 2023 Premium Rate Increase

In light of the prevailing socio-economic challenges brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic and to provide financial relief to our countrymen amidst this difficult time, President Marcos directed PhilHealth to suspend the increase in premium rate and income ceiling for CY 2023. Hence, the Benefits Committee participated in the joint committee meeting with the Governance Committee, and Risk Management Committee at the onset of CY 2023 to develop various strategies and initiatives to offset expected shortfall from the suspension of the CY 2023 premium rate increase. The strategies included the cascading of the CY 2023 collection targets to the PhilHealth Regional Offices, intensification of mapping and compliance monitoring of employers thru the PhilHealth Accounts Management Information Specialist, promotion of the Philippine Business Hub on the registration of new employers, intensify information, education and communication on the NHIP benefits thru quad media, strengthening linkages with the local government units, and other strategies.

II. Enhancement of Benefits Packages

The Committee continued to make the benefit packages responsive to the health care needs of Filipinos by improving benefit packages through the following measures:

- The Committee approved the rationalized new case rates for the following identified high-burden conditions with highest utilizations: Pneumonia (Moderate pneumonia and High-Risk pneumonia); and Stroke (hemorrhagic stroke and ischemic stroke). The median estimates of the healthcare cost will be used for the new case rates;
- The Committee approved maintaining the current rate of P2,600 per hemodialysis session but increased the 144 sessions to 156 sessions and institutionalized the 156 hemodialysis sessions;

¹ PBR 2478 s. 2019 (Resolution Approving the Revised Statement of Functions and Responsibilities of the Benefits Committee)

- The Committee approved the Implementing Guidelines for Outpatient Drug Benefit Package (PhilHealth GAMOT);
- The Committee approved the Recalibrated Benefit Plan;
- The Committee approved the proposed request for adjustment of paid COVID-19 claims (Financial Risk Protection and Inpatient Covid-19) by healthcare facilities with admission dates from April 15, 2020, to June 18, 2021;
- The Committee approved the inclusion of Konsulta benefits as part of the P21.7 billion PCSO and PAGCOR funds for the benefit improvement;
- The Committee approved the Implementing Guidelines for Cost-sharing Schemes.

III. Strategies Towards Progressive Realization of UHC

In consonance with the provision of the UHC law in providing access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective health services and prioritizing the needs of the population, the Committee approved the following measures:

- Simultaneous Implementation of the Konsulta Primary Care Provider Network (PCPN) contracting arrangement together with the other types of Konsulta;
- The Committee approved for the PhilHealth Board presentation of the Implementing Guidelines for PhilHealth Konsulta with SDG Benefits Package;
- The Committee approved the Selection Criteria for HCPN Demonstration Sites;
- The Committee approved the Guidelines for Contracting Health Care Provider Networks (HCPN);
- The Committee approved the revision to PhilHealth Konsulta Implementing Guidelines;
- The Committee approved the Implementing Guidelines on PhilHealth Prospective Payment Mechanism for HCPN, specifically the following: 1.) General Guidelines on Prospective Payments, 2.) Specific Guidelines on Prospective Payments (Budget preparation, Fund utilization, Fund recording, Fund auditing);
- The Committee approved the minor policy changes such as the following: 1.) Implementation of DCPM Nationwide (Revision 2)/ DCPM-5); 2.) Population coverage received - refiled from January 2018 to November 15, 2023; 3.) Payout of the full estimated amount of the applicable in-process claims-less DCPM balances, if there are any, subject to clearance by the Commission on Audit; 4.) Subject the rest to Benefits Accounting Management and Reconciliation (BAMR);
- The Committee approved the Guidelines for the Implementation of an all Case-based Global Budget for HCPN Demonstration Sites.

Membership of the Committee

The CY 2023 Benefits Committee is composed of the following:

Asst. Sec. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho MD, Ex-Officio, Department of Health sitting as Chairperson;

Asst. Sec. Warren Micalat, Ex-Officio, Department of Labor and Employment as its Vice Chairperson;

PCEO Emmanuel R. Ledesma, Jr. (Expert Panel Representative) as member;
 BGen. Marlene R. Padua, AFP (Ret) (Health Care Providers Sector Representative) as member;
 Jason Roland N. Valdez, MD (Direct Contributors Representative) as member;
 Rene Elias C. Lopez, MD (Employers Group) as member.

The table below shows the dates and attendance of each member to the Benefits Committee meetings held in CY 2023:

Attendance Record of the CY 2023 Benefits Committee Meetings													
Name of Committee Members	Sector	Jan 16	Feb 13	Mar 9	Mar 24	Apr 18	May 11	Aug 29	Sep 21	Oct 18	Nov 7	Dec 6	Total (11)
1. Asst. Sec. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho MD	Chairperson, DOH	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	*1	10
2. Asst. Sec. Warren Micalat	Vice-Chair, DOLE	√	√	√	*	√	√	√	√	√	*	√	9
3. Jason Roland N. Valdez MD	Direct Contributors	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	11
4. PCEO Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr	Expert Panel	√	√	*2	√	√	*2	*2	√	√	√	√	8
5. BGen. Marlene R. Padua, AFP (Ret)	Health Care Providers	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	11
6. Rene Elias C. Lopez, MD	Employer Group	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	11

Legend:

√denotes that the Board member is present during the meeting

*denotes that the Board member is not present during the meeting

*1 Board Member is on official leave

*2 Board member attended an important meeting

The Benefits Committee will continue to perform its function and responsibilities to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare services, and protected against financial risk.

Benefits Committee Secretariat