



Republic of the Philippines
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CY 2018 Accomplishment Report of the Benefits Committee

In CY 2018, the Benefits Committee focused on reviewing the All Case Rates (ACR) payment mechanism to create a more efficient provider payment system. Last April 2018, the Benefits Committee participated in a 2-day BDRD workshop which aimed to rationalize the ACR system through delisting of redundant ICD 10 codes with corresponding RVS codes and to transfer selected medical conditions from inpatient to outpatient benefits package. It encouraged management to regularly perform claims profiling to monitor claims availment and examine for red flags. The Committee also pushed for reforms in the accreditation of health care institutions and professionals. The Committee pointed out the need for health care providers to be fully equipped so that they can render quality care to their patients. It also recommended the submission of Claim Form 4, an enhanced PhilHealth claim form containing a clinical summary and certified true copy of laboratory and diagnostic examination results, to prevent abuses and fraudulent claims.

Further, during the advent of Dengvaxia controversy, the Committee invited two resource persons, namely, Dr. Rosally Zamora and Dr. Soraya Alvarado, fellows of the Philippine Society of Microbiology and Philippine Pediatric Society, to share their expertise on diagnosing and management of Dengvaxia-vaccinated children with acute febrile illness. After a thorough deliberation on the matter, the Committee recommended not to create a new, separate outpatient package for Dengvaxia-vaccinated patients, but to cover it instead in the existing inpatient dengue package.

The Benefits Committee recognized the importance of an effective primary care in the health care system. Towards this end, the Committee supported the expansion of the Primary Care Benefit (PCB) package to the formal sector and senior citizens as a way of strengthening gatekeeping mechanism. The Committee also approved the proposal of Dr. Anthony Miguel Dans, UP College of Medicine, to extend the UP Health Service Primary Care Study to include rural and GIDA settings. Likewise, the Committee invited Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho, from Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau, DOH, who discussed the Universal Health Care bill and Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG) system. In consonance with the principles of Universal Health Care, the Committee believes that the health care system should be centered on people's needs and well-being. In addition to the expansion of PCB, the Committee directed management to prioritize the development of PhilHealth Plus, a supplemental health benefit package for government employees, and to develop a more comprehensive benefit package for mental health services.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the efficiency of overall collection strategies to improve collection and strengthen financial sustainability of the corporation. It directed management to institute measures to recover payments for unwarranted claims, address the issue of multiple PINs, validate the list of large accounts employers with no remittance reports, recovery of dishonored checks and ensure that employers are remitting the correct premium contributions and submit remittance reports. Indeed, CY 2018 was not only a challenging year for the Benefits Committee, but also an opportunity to institute reforms in transition towards the passage of Universal Health Care bill.

Prepared by:

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