



Republic of the Philippines  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**

Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City  
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CY 2021 Accomplishment Report of the Benefits Committee

In response to the continuing World Health Organization declaration and President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s Proclamation No. 922 declaring a state of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines, the Benefits Committee recommended to the Board the approval of the following measures:

**Major Accomplishments**

**Strategic, Covid-Related**

Measures	Date of Committee Meeting/ Approval	Status
Intermediate Package for non-Covid (negative RT-PCR test) with the following amounts, subject to the inputs and comments from the Committee (Severe/critical risk-P38,000; Moderate risk-P18,000)	February 9, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-008 and published on June 19, 2021. A grace period was given for inpatient claims of probable Covid 19 pneumonia cases admitted from November 26, 2020 to June 18, 2021. However, upon publication of PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0020 on October 13, 2021, the Intermediate Package was no longer applied. Starting June 19, 2021 (date of admission), only cases with positive RT-PCR test results or those that fulfil the criteria under Section V.C of PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0012 were eligible for Covid 19 inpatient benefit packages, while cases initially managed as Covid 19 but with negative RT-PCR test results were eligible for Intermediate Package until the publication of PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0020.
Hospitalization benefits due to serious adverse effects following immunization. For mild case, a maximum of P6,200 (Outpatient and ER); for moderate case, a maximum of P190,000; For critical case, a maximum of P133,000	March 8, 2021	PhilHealth Board approved the benefit cap for hospitalization claims under the Covid 19 vaccine injury package to P100,000 per beneficiary. It was implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-007 (re: Implementing Guidelines on the Coverage of Covid 19 Vaccine Injury due to Serious Adverse Effects Following Immunization Resulting in Hospitalization, Permanent Disability or Death under the Covid 19 National Vaccine Injury Indemnity Fund), and published on June 18, 2021.
Benefits for Death and Permanent Disability. For death benefit, a lump sum of P200,000; For Permanent Disability, a lump sum of P200,000	March 8, 2021	PhilHealth Board approved the lump sum compensation for death or permanent disability under the Covid 19 vaccine injury package to P100,000 per beneficiary. It was implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-007 (re: Implementing Guidelines





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		on the Coverage of Covid 19 Vaccine Injury due to Serious Adverse Effects Following Immunization Resulting in Hospitalization, Permanent Disability or Death under the Covid 19 National Vaccine Injury Indemnity Fund), and published on June 18, 2021.
Package design, amount, coverage and rules for availment on Covid-19 Indemnity Fund	April 26, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-007 (re: Implementing Guidelines on the Coverage of Covid 19 Vaccine Injury due to Serious Adverse Effects Following Immunization Resulting in Hospitalization, Permanent Disability or Death under the Covid 19 National Vaccine Injury Indemnity Fund) and published on June 18, 2021.
Proposal for prospective application of policy on non-reimbursement of RT-PCR negative cases, upon publication of the circular, together with the Intermediate Package, subject to the comments of the Committee	April 26, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0020 (re: Clarification on the Coverage for Covid 19 Inpatient Benefit Package, Revision 1) and published on October 31, 2021.
Covid Home Isolation Package, subject to the positive recommendation of Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) and comments of the Committee	May 20, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0014 (re: Covid-19 Home Isolation Benefit Package) and published on August 19, 2021. The policy was repealed through PhilHealth Circular No. 2022-0002 and published on February 4, 2022.
Proposal to reduce the minimum length of stay of patients from 14 days to 10 days in the Covid Community Isolation Benefit Package, and retain the P22, 449 case rate	May 12, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0024 (re: Modification on the Minimum Length of Stay in PhilHealth Accredited Community Isolation Units) and published on December 16, 2021.
Criteria for coverage of Covid 19 drugs that are not in the Philippine National Formulary, subjects to the inputs and discussions of the Committee	Oct. 19, 2021	PhilHealth Board approved the policy that sets the criteria for coverage of Covid 19 drugs that are not in the PNF on November 12, 2021. The circular for its implementation is being routed for approval.
Continue the full Financial Risk Protection coverage for health care workers, provided that it is during the National State of Calamity due to Covid 19 until September 12, 2022 unless extended or terminated earlier by the President of the Philippines, and a confirmed case of Covid 19	Oct. 19, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Corporate Order No. 2021-0069 (re: Implementation of Covid 19 Inpatient Benefit Packages) signed by PCEO on Oct. 8, 2021. PhilHealth Advisory No. 2021-010 was also issued stating the continuing full coverage of health care workers and uploaded in the PhilHealth website on May 3, 2021.
Include the antigen test and saliva-based RT-PCR test as a confirmatory test for Covid 19 to be reckoned from the date of the approval of the tests by DOH and HTAC	Nov. 15, 2021	PhilHealth Board approved the policy that accepts antigen test and saliva-based RT-PCR test as confirmatory tests for purpose of coverage of Covid 19 inpatient package on January 26, 2022. The draft circular is





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		being revised to incorporate the inputs from the board members.
Revision of description of approved Covid 19 Inpatient Packages based on current classification.	Nov. 15, 2021	PhilHealth Board approved the revision of case severity definition for the Covid 19 inpatient benefit package on January 26, 2022.

***Operational, Covid-Related***

Include in the scope of PhilHealth Circular on payment recovery, the following additional cases: (a) Overpayment of benefit claims under the Debit-Credit Payment Method (DCPM) after reconciliation with Health Care Providers (HCP); (b) Overpayment of Primary Care Benefits claims/Konsulta after reconciliation with the HCP	April 26, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0011 (re: PhilHealth Payment Recovery Policy) and published on August 7, 2021.
Inclusion of the phrase, “ Expansion shall be allowed to other areas identified by IATF and/ or NTF”, in the PhilHealth Board Resolution on DCPM	April 26, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 2605, s. 2021, and PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0006 (re:Application of DCPM to Facilitate the Settlement of Accounts Payable to Health Care Facility During the State of Public Health Emergency due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, Revision 1). It was published on May 27, 2021.
PhilHealth coverage of drugs not on the Philippine National Formulary, provided that there’s a request for a clearer statement from the DOH-Health Technology Assessment (HTAC) and the case be referred to the Legal Sector for a legal opinion on the matter	April 26, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0012 (re:Modification on the Payment Rules of Benefit Packages under All Case Rates Policy including Covid-19 Benefit Packages, and published on August 7, 2021.
Proposal to pay whichever is lower, subject to the comments of the Committee	April 26, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0012 (re:Modification on the Payment Rules of Benefit Packages under All Case Rates Policy including Covid-19 Benefit Packages and published on August 7, 2021.
Issuance of an Advisory that PhilHealth shall pay for patients accommodated in tents	May 12, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Advisory No. 2021-028 (re: PhilHealth Coverage of Health Services Admitted in tents within the Hospital Compound) published in the PhilHealth website on August 5, 2021.
Strategies on Slow Processing of Claims by Extending the Applicable period of DCPM: (a) Change the applicable period for in process claims from Health Care Facilities from April 8, 2021 to August 9, 2021 for all Letter of	Aug. 10, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0016( re: Application of Debit-Credit Payment Method (DCPM) to facilitate the Settlement of Accounts Payable to Healthcare Facility During the State of Public Health Emergency due to the Covid





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Intent submission 15 days after the publication of the circular or the effectivity of the circular; (b) Extend authority to management to adjust the applicable period in the future to (allow for agility in managing succeeding surges); (c) Consider putting limitations in delegating authority to management in adjusting the period		19 pandemic, Revision 2) and published on August 28, 2021.
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***Strategic, Non-Covid Related***

Directed Management to redirect its focus on developing the Diagnostic-Related Groupings (DRG) and migration from the All Case Rates (ACR) Policy to DRG	Aug. 2021	10, PhilHealth Board approved the transition from ACR to DRG-based provider payment on December 27, 2021. A circular that will set the guiding principles for DRG transition is being routed for approval.
Shifting of the provider payment from ACR to DRG –based payment	Dec. 2021	17, PhilHealth Board approved the transition from ACR to DRG-based provider payment on December 27, 2021. The circular that will set the guiding principles for DRG transition is being routed for approval.
Adoption of the Thai DRG as the starting point of Philippine DRG	Dec. 2021	17, PhilHealth Board approved the adoption of Thai DRG as starting point for development of Philippine DRG on December 27, 2021.  Coordination with ILED on formal engagement is on-going and they requested BDRD for the complete staff work.  Emailed Ms. Wilailuk of Thailand National Health Security Office (NHSO) and Dr. Supasit (TCMC) regarding the approval of the transitioning to DRG and formal engagement and requested review of the draft Terms of Engagement.  Request for action plan requested by Thai counterpart is being drafted.
Workplan for Provider Payment Reforms	Dec. 2021	17, PhilHealth Board approved the workplan for provider payment mechanism reforms on December 27, 2021.  As part of 2022 workplan, a circular that will set the guiding principles for DRG transition is being routed for approval.  Data collection for costing of health services in pilot hospital is on-going. Submission of data by hospitals is set on February 7, 2022.





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Directed Management to create a Technical Working Group with DOH, HFPS, ITMD and COA as members and BM Herbosa as the advisor	Dec. 17, 2021	PhilHealth Board approved, together with the approval of provider payment mechanism (PPM) workplan, the creation of governance body to oversee and monitor progress of PPM workplan on December 27, 2021. Corporate Order for the creation of TWG is being routed for approval.
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*Minor Accomplishments*

Extension of the 144 hemodialysis sessions per year up to 2021	May 12, 2021	Implemented through PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-009 (re: PhilHealth Coverage for Outpatient Hemodialysis Benefit Package to a maximum of 144 sessions for CY 2021) and published on July 2, 2021.
Assistance and review in the existing PhilHealth Policy applicable for 4 cases of patients	Aug. 10, 2021	First case: the case has been referred to the Monitoring Committee of PRO NCR last June 29, 2021 for appropriate action; Second case: Adjustment module is now in place and PRO NCR is closely coordinating with the family to process the adjustment needed for patient; Third case: Relatives of patient was advised of list of agencies where they can seek financial assistance; Fourth case: Case is referred to FFIED for fact finding and case build-up, if necessary.
Deferred the approval of institutionalizing benefit for coverage of 144 outpatient hemodialysis sessions per year as PhilHealth benefit due and directed management to complete the staff work	Dec. 17, 2021	Ongoing staff work.
Deferred the approval of the proposal and creation of the Project Management Team who will operationalize the PhilHealth Plus and directed management to complete the staff work	Dec. 17, 2021	Ongoing staff work and procurement for hiring of services of individual consultant.

CY 2021 was a challenging year for the Benefits Committee as it was able to hold Committee meetings ten (10) times during the year (please see Annex A). It was an opportunity to develop meaningful benefit packages to become more responsive to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic.

Prepared by:

Secretariat, Benefits Committee  
Office of the Corporate Secretary





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ANNEX A

Attendance of BenCom Members  
 From January-December 2021

Benefits Committee Members	Feb 9	Mar 5	Mar 8	Apr 26	May 12	May 20	Aug 10	Oct 19	Nov 15	Dec 17
1.Usec. Atty. Benjo Santos M. Benavidez (Chairperson) (DOLE)	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
2.Usec. Dr. Lilibeth C. David (DOH)	√	√	√	√	√	√				√
3.Dr. Jason Roland N.Valdez (Direct Contributors Sector)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
4.Dr. Ma. Graciela G. Gonzaga, Msc. (Expert Panel)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
5.BGen. Marlene R. Padua, AFP (Ret) (Health Care Providers Sector)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
6. Dr. Rene Elias C. Lopez ( Employers Group)*	NA	NA	NA	NA	√	√	√	√	√	
7. Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa (Expert Panel)**	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	√	√

Legend:

√ =Present

NA= Not applicable because BM is not yet a Member of BenCom

\* Started as a Member on May 12, 2021 up to present

\*\*Started as a Member on Nov. 15, 2021 up to present

