

MEMBERS WARNED VERSUS 'HERDING' PRACTICES

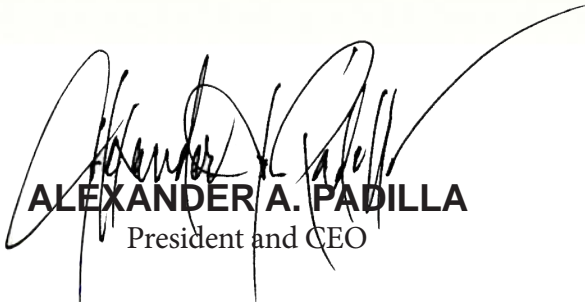
In a bid to ensure the quality of care and treatment given to our members, we would like to caution the public against the practice of certain health care providers to herd (*hakot*) patients, enticing them to undergo procedures in exchange for free meals and transportation.

This practice can put the members' safety at risk and may render the quality of services provided under such a set-up doubtful, as continuity of care is not assured after the procedure is done.

Members are therefore encouraged to be wary about "seekers" who may approach them for certain medical procedures that they may not necessarily need.

At the same time, we would like to reiterate that cataract surgeries remain to be compensable in accredited facilities anywhere in the country. Members with approved pre-authorizations, qualifying contributions and updated member data records may avail themselves of this benefit package through case-based payment.

Any concerns pertaining to this advisory may be directed to our Call Center at (02) 441-7442.


ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
President and CEO