



## Coverage of COVID-19 Cases Admitted in Level 1 Hospitals

Section VI.B of PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0009 states that “Level 1 hospitals can only provide services for patients with mild pneumonia package, **except** when there are no higher-level facilities that can accommodate the surge of patients within the area for the inpatient case management of moderate (COVID-19) pneumonia”.

Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2021-0042 defines a “surge” as situations when “ the local health system is overwhelmed and immediate action is required to meet the continuous increase in demand that may exceed normal capacity”. It further provides that IATF Alert Levels will be utilized in managing surge response.

Given these issuances, Level 1 (L1) hospitals in municipalities without any Level 2 (L2) or Level 3 (L3) Hospitals as certified by the Department of Health – Center for Health Development may be allowed to claim for moderate COVID-19 pneumonia regardless of the risk classification of their areas.

Moreover, L1 hospitals may file for claims in treating moderate COVID-19 pneumonia cases for patients admitted while the province or city is under Alert Level 3 or higher; or enhanced or modified enhanced community quarantine (ECQ/MECQ) based on the old risk classification. These areas have increasing demands for healthcare services and the higher-level hospitals are already operating in near-full or full capacity. They can no longer accommodate the influx of patients, leaving L1 hospitals to manage patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 pneumonia.

PhilHealth maintains that per PhilHealth Circular 2020-0009, severe and critical COVID-19 cases shall only be reimbursed in Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals until further notice.

Further inquiries maybe coursed through PhilHealth Callback Channel: 0921-6300009 or any of the PhilHealth Regional and Local Health Insurance Offices.

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