

## Clarification on the policy recommendation pertaining to treatment durations in PC Nos. 2024-0027 and 2023-0077 and Implementation of Length of Hospital Stay (LOS) in Certain Conditions

The following evidence-based policy statements pertaining to treatment duration as provided for in the following Circulars intend to promote quality of care and prevent under-treatment rather than as a requirement for reimbursement. The said specific statements are in accordance with current local practice guidelines and consultation with local experts, to wit:

- PhilHealth Circular No. 2024-0027 "Quality Standards on the Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Adult Community-Acquired Pneumonia (ACAP) as Reference of the Corporation" provides a **five-day treatment duration** for low to moderate adult community-acquired pneumonia.
- PhilHealth Circular No. 2023-0077 "Quality Policy on the Diagnosis and Management, of Neonatal Sepsis as Reference of the Corporation" provides that antibiotic treatment should be given **at least seven days** for babies with a positive blood culture.

Further, the following specific Circulars implemented the requirement for hospital length of stay (LOS) for reimbursement:

1. PhilHealth Circular No. 2023-0021 "Implementing Guidelines on the Case Rates for Acute Stroke"
2. PhilHealth Circular No. 2023-0027 "Implementing Guidelines on the Case Rates for Pneumonia High-Risk"
3. PhilHealth Circular No. 2024-0008 "Implementing Guidelines on the Case Rates for Neonatal Sepsis"

Furthermore, in the three above-mentioned circulars PhilHealth shall not reimburse inpatient confinements of two (2) days or less with a patient disposition of "improved" indicated in Claim Form 2 upon hospital discharge. The claim/s will be denied.

Lastly, for other medical conditions and surgical procedures outside the scope of the abovementioned circulars, the LOS is no longer the basis for reimbursement of claims as provided for in PhilHealth Circular No. 2017-0028: "Policy on Claims for Pneumonia, Acute Gastroenteritis, Urinary Tract Infection and Other Identified Conditions." This shall be applicable until the appropriate PhilHealth issuance amends or revises the policy.

For further inquiries, kindly reach us through the following:

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For the information and guidance of all concerned.

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