

## Strict Implementation of the PhilHealth Outpatient Emergency Care Benefit (OECB)

Cognizant of the need to bridge the gap in financial coverage to patients requiring urgent or emergent care, the Corporation has introduced the Outpatient Emergency Care Benefit (OECB) through PhilHealth Circular No. 2024-0033 effective February 14, 2025. This is aligned with the Universal Health Care Act (UHC) No. 11223 that mandates PhilHealth to develop a comprehensive outpatient benefit.

As clarified in PhilHealth Advisory No. 2025-009, outpatient emergency cases managed in the emergency department of PhilHealth accredited **Level 1, 2, and 3 hospitals** are covered by the Facility-based Emergency (FBE) Benefit under the OECB. It was further clarified that there shall be no separate application for accreditation of hospitals since its capability to provide the said benefit is assumed through the hospital's DOH license.

Relative to the above, all accredited hospitals are hereby reminded to strictly implement the deduction of OECB Package. Hospitals found to be non-compliant to the said PhilHealth Circular shall be subject to Health Care Provider Performance Assessment System (HCP PAS) Policy, and possible administrative case as deemed necessary, such as, but not limited to Breach of the Performance Commitment.

For further inquiries, please coordinate with your respective PhilHealth Regional Offices (PROs) or through the following designated communication channels:

Hotline : (02) 866 225 88

“Click-to-Call” : Visit <https://www.philhealth.gov.ph> and click the corresponding icon.

Mobile Hotlines : (Smart) 0998-857-2957; 0968-865-4670  
(Globe) 0917-127-5987; 0917-110-9812

Email : [actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph](mailto:actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph)

Social media : <https://www.facebook.com/PhilHealthofficial>  
<https://twitter.com/teamphilhealth>

For your guidance.

**(Sgd.) EDWIN M. MERCADO, MD, MHA, MMSc**  
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer

Date signed: July 14, 2025