



PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

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TO All Accredited Professional and Institutional Health Care Providers, Members of the National Health Insurance Program, Employers in the Private and Government Sectors, Regional Health Insurance Offices, Claims Processing Departments in the Central Office and All Concerned

SUBJECT Clarification on Payment of Professional Fees

ALL hospitals with salaried physicians, government and private, are directed to update and send their official requests to this Office until July 31, 2000 on the payment of professional fees rendered to PhilHealth members, whether these should be made to the Chief of Hospital or to the Chief of Clinics. Otherwise, payments shall be made directly to the signatory / attending physicians.

Section 52-C of the existing Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 7875 states that *"...when the beneficiary has complied with the requisites for availment as patient, the hospital and the practitioner should deduct from the hospitalization charges all expenses reimbursable by the Corporation. Payment of medical benefits shall be made directly to the hospital or the medical or dental practitioner, as the case may be."*

In the application of this rule, the concerned Regional Health Insurance Offices (RHIOs) and the Claims Processing Departments at the Central Office pays the accredited hospital / physician whose name and signature appears on the claim application. On the other hand, retention of professional fees by concerned health facilities is allowed, for services rendered by salaried physicians in government hospitals. The PF is being pooled and distributed among health personnel, hence, payment to the Chief of Hospital is allowed.

In certain cases, payment to the Chief of Hospital of some private training hospitals and those with salaried physicians are allowed for their service to charity patients who happen to be PhilHealth members. This allows the institution to recover costs incurred and ultimately help other poor patients. As such, the Professional Fee is similarly paid to the Chief of Hospital.

In the existing situation, PhilHealth does not tolerate any other arrangement that can be done by the Medical Director outside of his official task and authority. The medical practitioner who performed the service should be the signatory on the claim form except in government facilities that are covered by section 52-I of the existing Rules and Regulations and instances mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. All accredited physicians are encouraged to maintain utmost professionalism within this system.

Please be guided accordingly.

ENRIQUE M. ZALAMEA
President and CEO