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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
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**TO : All Accredited Institutional Health Care Providers
and All Concerned**

**SUBJECT : Requirement of a Surgeon and an Anesthesiologist in a
Secondary Hospital (Primary Care Hospital)**

The Corporation is mandated to ensure that quality health care services are provided to all members and dependents of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). In view of this, all accredited secondary hospitals must have the capability to perform surgical procedures, therefore, they are required to have the following full-time specialists, to wit:

1. A qualified surgeon whose services are readily available at all times to perform major surgical procedures. The surgeon should have undergone a 4-year residency training program. In areas where there are no available surgeons, as determined and verified by the PhilHealth Regional Offices and/or Accreditation Department, a physician who has been certified to have trained in surgery for at least 6 months may be acceptable. However, she/he may only be allowed to perform limited surgical procedures as determined by the Philippine College of Surgeons. He/she may not necessarily be physically present in the hospital at all times specially when there is no patient scheduled for surgery.
2. An anesthesiologist, whose services are readily available at all times to provide anesthesia to patients for surgery. A qualified anesthesiologist should have undergone any hospital training program. He/she may not necessarily be physically present in the hospital when there is no patient scheduled for surgery.

All secondary category (primary care) hospitals should have a documented plan of action in case the above-mentioned physicians are not in the hospital premises at a time when a patient's condition requires a surgical procedure to be done. Absence of said plan shall be a deficiency that will cause downgrading of the hospital's accredited category from secondary to primary.

This issuance shall take effect 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III**
Officer-in-charge
Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer