



**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 22, s-2006

**TO : ALL CLAIMS PROCESSING DEPARTMENTS, ACCREDITED HOSPITALS, AMBULATORY SURGICAL CLINICS AND DOCTORS, PHILHEALTH MEMBERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : Reimbursement of Preoperative Tests Performed Before a Planned (Elective) Surgery**

PhilHealth recognizes the important role of preoperative testing in the assessment and management of patients undergoing anesthesia and surgery. In line with this, the following rules for the reimbursement of tests performed for the preoperative assessment of patients undergoing planned (elective) surgeries are hereby issued:

1. Preoperative tests performed before planned surgeries shall be reimbursed by PhilHealth provided that they are considered part of the preoperative evaluation and management of patients.
2. Preoperative tests that shall be considered medically-necessary include any of the following: complete blood count, test for hemostasis, chest x-ray or ECG. In addition, more specific tests may be claimed depending on the medical profile of the patient (e.g., age of patient, other known health problems) and the type of operation to be performed.
3. Benefits for these procedures shall be charged against the inpatient benefit for "X-ray, laboratory and others."
4. PhilHealth shall only pay preoperative tests done in the hospital where the planned surgical procedure was performed.
5. Hospital reimbursement as claimed in Part IV of PhilHealth Form 2 shall be given priority for payment.
6. The reimbursements to members for preoperative tests shall be based on the actual cost of the preoperative tests as shown by official receipts submitted and within the remaining benefit for "X-ray, laboratory and others" after payment of hospital charges.
7. Only preoperative tests done within thirty (30) days prior to the planned surgery supported by official receipts shall be reimbursed.
8. These rules shall apply only to surgeries included in the relative value scale (RVS) performed in accredited hospitals and ambulatory surgical clinics.

This Circular shall take effect for all claims with admission dates starting October 1, 2006. All other issuances inconsistent with this Circular are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

**(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III**  
Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: August 18, 2006