



Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
 Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

No. 16, s-2009

TO : ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : PhilHealth Cataract Package

Pursuant to PhilHealth Board Resolution Number 1110 series of 2008, payment of cataract extraction procedures shall be on a case payment basis. The following are the rules on the new PhilHealth cataract package:

A) Case Payment

- 1) This benefit uses a case payment scheme wherein cataract extraction procedure/s shall be paid **16,000 pesos** regardless whether the procedure was done in one or both eyes in one operative session.
- 2) This new payment scheme applies to all applicable health care providers for cataract surgery (ambulatory surgical clinics [ASC], secondary and tertiary hospitals), whether done in an outpatient or inpatient setup regardless of number of days of confinement.
- 3) Cataract procedures covered under this package are limited only to the following procedures:


RVS Code	Description
66983	Intracapsular cataract extraction with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure)
66984	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure) e.g., irrigation and aspiration
66987	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure) e.g., phacoemulsification

- 4) Availment of PhilHealth cataract package shall be charged 1 day from 45-days limit per calendar year.

B) Coverage and Limitations

- 1) The case rate of 16,000 pesos is divided into:

	Covered Items and Services
8,000 pesos	Hospital charges for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Room & board; 2. Drugs & medicines used during confinement; 3. Supplies including intraocular lens; 4. X-ray, laboratory & ancillary procedures done during confinement; 5. Use of operating room complex and use of machines
8,000 pesos	Professional fee for doctor who performed the procedure

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 Administrative Officer IV, Chief - RELMS
 Date: 6/16/09
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- 2) Excluded in the package are payment for the following:
 - a) Preoperative tests done prior to confinement
 - b) Professional fee for preoperative consultation and/or physician standby service
 - c) Professional fee for anesthesia service
 - d) Complex cataract surgery (RVS Code 66982) requiring techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (*iris expansion device, suture support for IOL, or primary posterior capsulorhexis*) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage.

- 3) Furthermore, the new policy on tiered payment for doctors' fee does not apply to cataract package and other PhilHealth benefits paid thru case payments.
- 4) Members may be paid partially or in full upon submission of valid official receipts (e.g., drugs, supplies, intraocular lens, or professional fee).
- 5) Official receipts issued by doctors for drugs and medicines or devices (including intraocular lens) shall not be reimbursed by PhilHealth. (Chapter X Rule 50 of R.A. 9502 or the Cheaper Medicines Act)

C) Bilateral Procedures

- 1) It is reiterated that cataract surgeries performed on both eyes during one operative session (bilateral cataract surgery) or two separate unilateral cataract surgeries done in one confinement shall only be paid 16,000 pesos. Example: A patient is admitted from July 7 to 10, 2009 for cataract surgery of both eyes done on two operative session.

Date of Operation	Procedure	Total Payment
July 7	Phacoemulsification of cataract, left eye	16,000 pesos
July 9	Phacoemulsification of cataract, right eye	

- 2) In addition, two separate unilateral cataract surgeries done in two confinements that are not separated by at least 48 hours shall only be paid 16,000 pesos. For example:

Date of Operation	Procedure	Total Payment
July 18	Phacoemulsification of cataract, left eye	16,000 pesos
July 19	Phacoemulsification of cataract, right eye	

- 3) Two unilateral cataract surgeries will only be paid separately if there is at least a 48-hour interval between the two confinements. For example:

Date of Operation	Procedure	Total Payment
July 18	Phacoemulsification of cataract, left eye	16,000 pesos
July 21	Phacoemulsification of cataract, right eye	16,000 pesos

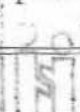
D) Multiple Procedures

For claims of cataract surgeries that are accompanied by the performance of other procedures or services with relative value unit (RVU), reimbursement shall be guided by the following rules:

- 1) As a general rule, only the case rate of 16,000 shall be paid. There is no additional payment for professional fee or hospital charges for any additional surgeries done during the same confinement.
- 2) However, if the "non-cataract procedure" has an RVU above 200 (e.g., repair of retinal detachment) case payment will be disregarded and the benefit shall be based on the usual fee-for-service guidelines using the RVU of the "non-cataract procedure".

Date of Operation	Procedure	Payment	Total Payment
July 28	Phacoemulsification of cataract, left eye	16,000 pesos	based on 300 RVU
July 28	Repair retinal detachment, left eye	RVU 300	

This rule does not apply to cataract surgery with vitrectomy procedures. (See Section D3)



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3) Cataract Extraction with Vitrectomy

- a) For claims of cataract extraction that are accompanied by vitrectomy secondary to posterior capsular rupture resulting from cataract surgery, only the cataract extraction shall be paid. Payment for such claims shall only be based on 16,000 pesos case rate. Example:

Date of Operation	Procedure	Payment	Total Payment
August 6	Phacoemulsification of cataract, left eye	16,000 pesos	16,000 pesos
August 6	Vitrectomy, left eye	RVU 300	

- b) Moreover, a claim for postoperative vitrectomy performed 90 days after cataract surgery shall be disallowed payment whether done during the same or different confinement.
- c) Vitrectomy performed at the time of cataract extraction shall only be paid if an indication specified in the admitting diagnosis supports the performance of the procedure. In such case, payment of professional fee and hospital charges shall be based on RVU of vitrectomy and not on case rate for cataract. For example, Admitting diagnosis: 1. senile cataract; and, 2. diabetic retinopathy:

Date of Operation	Procedure	Payment	Total Payment
July 18	Phacoemulsification of cataract, left eye	16,000 pesos	based on 300 RVU
July 18	Vitrectomy, left eye	RVU 300	

E) Claims Filing

- 1) Facilities are required to submit the following:

- PhilHealth Form 1;
- PhilHealth Form 2;
- Operating Room Record/Operative Technique;
- Official receipts (*hospital, doctor, or pharmacy*), and;
- Other documents required by PhilHealth such as Member Data Record (MDR), proof of premium payment (MI-5), PhilHealth ID.

Claims for cataract package are exempted from submission of statement of account (SoA).

- With the reimbursement of cataract extraction by case payment, Parts III, IV and V of PhilHealth Claim Form 2 need not be filled up.
- In cases where members are required by hospitals to buy drugs, medicines and supplies or requested to seek out other necessary services (laboratory procedures) from other facilities, reimbursement to members is allowed, provided that:
 - The facility cannot provide the necessary items and services covered by the benefit.
 - These items and services are used during confinement.
 - Official receipts and/or other purchase documents are submitted.
 - The reimbursement to members depends on the actual cost of the receipts submitted but not more than the difference between the maximum benefit and the facility reimbursement
 - The facility acknowledges that the cost of benefits and services it provided is less than the maximum benefit by appropriately filling-up item 12 of Part I of Form 2.
 - In such cases, facility is required to fill up Parts III, IV and V of PhilHealth Claim Form 2 and submit a copy of Statement of Account (SA).

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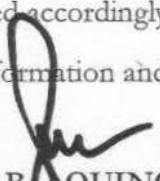
F) Premium Requirements

- 1) Employed members and Individually Paying Members (IPM) enrolled by Organized Groups through the KASAPI must have paid at least three (3) months of contribution within the immediate six (6) months prior to the month of availment.
- 2) Individually Paying Members (IPM), including IPMs under the Group Enrollment Scheme, availing of these surgeries and procedures are required to comply with the rule on sufficient regularity of premium contributions:
 - a) A member should have at least nine (9) months of premium payment within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to surgery or procedure.
 - b) For claims with two or more procedures wherein at least one surgery is cataract surgery covered in this Circular (RVS codes 66983, 66984 & 66987), the rule on sufficient regularity of premium contribution still applies.
- 3) Sponsored and Overseas Workers Program members are entitled to the package if the date of availment falls within the validity period of their membership as stated in the ID card/enhanced Member Data Record.
- 4) Non-paying (retirees and pensioners) members shall be entitled to avail of the package upon presentation of PhilHealth ID.

G) Other Provisions

- 1) It is reiterated that the non-compensability of cataract surgeries performed on patients during medical missions or patients sought by means of other recruitment schemes, as stated in PhilHealth Circular Numbers 17 and 19 s.-2007, remain valid and in effect.
- 2) In compliance to PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 1094 s. 2008, all PhilHealth-accredited healthcare professionals will be closely monitored on the number of cataract surgeries they file quarterly and yearly.
- 3) Processing of claim applications from any healthcare provider who furnishes false or incorrect information for the purpose of filing for reimbursement from PhilHealth shall be suspended pending legal investigation.
- 4) The case payment for cataract extraction shall be implemented for all admissions and/or availment starting May 1, 2009.
- 5) The provisions of previous Circulars, Office Orders and other related issuances that are inconsistent with any provisions of this Circular are hereby revised, modified, or repealed accordingly.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


DR. REY B. AQUINO

President and CEO

Date signed: 4/14/09

