

Republic of the Philippines  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**

Citystate Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City  
 Healthline 441-7444 [www.philhealth.gov.ph](http://www.philhealth.gov.ph)

**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 0017, s-2013

**TO :** ALL PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, ACCREDITED PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES (PROs), AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

**SUBJECT :** Exemption of Cataract Surgery to the Rule on Single Period of Confinement

The Rule on Single Period of Confinement (SPC) was devised to assure that quality care is provided to patient-members or dependents of PhilHealth. It specifically describes that readmissions within 90 days of a procedure or confinement is highly discouraged and must be avoided by having health care institutions provide complete, optimum care to patients prior to discharge. The Rule also serves to prevent gaming of providers that discharge patients only to readmit them within a few days in order to access payments from PhilHealth.

However, such rule has its limitations when it comes to concepts of complete quality care for certain conditions, especially when completeness of care and services do not happen in one admission or in one instance but in a series of time-bound interventions that happen within a period (i.e. within 90 days). Examples of these conditions and procedures that should be deemed exempted from SPC include dialysis treatment, radiation therapy, bilateral lens removal and replacement (such as for bilateral cataracts), and possibly chemotherapy and treatment of exacerbations of asthma.

The Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, Inc. (PAO) in a previous letter to the Corporation recommended that an interval of one (1) day will help uphold safety standards while still making it practical to achieve visual rehabilitation in a timely and efficient manner. In effect, the 90-day wait before the second procedure is done would be deemed unnecessary and may even serve as a limitation to access care, especially for PhilHealth members under the Sponsored Program or those who live in far flung areas.


Thus, as part of the benefit reform policies to improve benefit availment, this circular is hereby issued for cataract procedures with the following RVS codes: 66983, 66984 and 66987.

**I. REIMBURSEMENT RULE FOR CATARACT**

- For **cataract procedures**, an additional character shall be placed in the last position of the assigned code for proper coding as illustrated below:

|                     |               |                |                    |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>ICD-10 codes</b> | 0 – left (OS) | 1 – right (OD) | 2 – bilateral (OU) |
| <b>RVS codes</b>    | 1 – left      | 2 – right      | 3 – bilateral      |

| CASE | SAMPLE CASE  | FINAL DIAGNOSIS                             |
|------|--------------|---|
| 1    | Cataract, OS | Cataract, OS (I125.20, 66987 <sub>1</sub> ) |
| 2    | Cataract, OD | Cataract, OD (I125.21, 66987 <sub>2</sub> ) |
| 3    | Cataract, OU | Cataract, OU (I125.22, 66987 <sub>3</sub> ) |


**PHILHEALTH**  
 MA. TERESA A. QUIAOIT  
 A.O. IV, Chief-RELMS  
 Date: 8/7/13  
**CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**

- a. For *bilateral* cataract procedures done in **one operative session**, or **two cataract procedures done with less than one day interval** (within same or different confinement), claims shall be paid as **one package**.

| CASE | DATE OF CONFINEMENT | SAMPLE CASE                         | CASE RATE | DATE OF OPERATION | AVAILMENT      |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1    | July 1 – 2, 2013    | Cataract, OU<br>(1125.22, 669872) ✓ | P16,000   | July 1, 2013      | Pay as P16,000 |
| 2    | July 1 – 2, 2013    | Cataract, OS<br>(1125.20, 669871) ✓ | P16,000   | July 1, 2013      | Pay as P16,000 |
|      |                     | Cataract, OD<br>(1125.21, 669872) ✓ | P16,000   | July 2, 2013      |                |
| 3    | July 1, 2013        | Cataract, OS<br>(1125.20, 669871) ✓ | P16,000   | July 1, 2013      | Pay as P16,000 |
|      | July 2, 2013        | Cataract, OD<br>(1125.21, 669872) ✓ | P16,000   | July 2, 2013      | Denied         |

- b. For cataract procedures done with a **minimum of one day interval** (in one confinement or different confinement dates), claims shall be paid as **two separate packages**. As such, these procedures shall be excluded from the rule on single period of confinement.

| CASE | DATE OF CONFINEMENT | SAMPLE CASE                         | CASE RATE | DATE OF OPERATION | AVAILMENT   |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 1    | July 1 – 3, 2013    | Cataract, OS<br>(1125.20, 669871) ✓ | P16,000   | July 1, 2013      | Pay as two packages<br>P16,000 + P16,000<br>= P32,000 |
|      |                     | Cataract, OD<br>(1125.21, 669872) ✓ | P16,000   | July 3, 2013      |   |
| 2    | July 1, 2013        | Cataract, OS<br>(1125.20, 669871) ✓ | P16,000   | July 1, 2013      | Pay as two packages<br>P16,000 + P16,000<br>= P32,000 |
|      | July 3, 2013        | Cataract, OD<br>(1125.21, 669872) ✓ | P16,000   | July 3, 2013      |   |

## II. REPEALING CLAUSE

All provisions of previous issuances that are inconsistent with any provisions of this Circular are hereby amended/modified/or repealed accordingly.

## III. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

In the event that a part or provision of this Circular is declared unauthorized or rendered invalid by any Court of Law or competent authority, those provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain valid and effective.

## IV. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in any newspaper of general circulation and shall be deposited thereafter with the National Administrative Register at the University of the Philippines Law Center.

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA  
President and CEO

Date signed: 7/10/13

