

TAMANG SAGOT

PhilHealth Circular 17,s.2014

Subject: Implementing Guidelines for the Primary Care Benefit 2 (PCB2) Package (Out-patient Medicines for Hypertension, Diabetes and Dyslipidemia) at selected innovation sites

1. What is the difference between PCB1 and PCB2?

The Primary Care Benefit 1 (PCB1) is an outpatient benefit that provides preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic services for members of the Sponsored Program, Overseas Workers Program and Organized Groups. The Primary Care Benefit 2 (PCB2) can be seen as an extension of PCB1, wherein patients who were screened to have high risk of hypertension, diabetes and dyslipidemia are given free out-patient medicines as part of their benefit.

2. Why is PCB2 applicable only to selected sites?

PCB2 shall be carried out by the innovation sites during the pilot test. Innovation sites were chosen based on willingness of the LGU to participate, current implementation of PCB1 and availability of connectivity to carry out electronic requirements of PCB2. While the pilot test shall be done only on the innovation sites, the PCB2 to be implemented after evaluation shall be made available to all PhilHealth members throughout the country.

3. Until when is the pilot test of PCB2? What is it for?

The pilot test of PCB2 is scheduled to end by December 31, 2014. The pilot test is designed to assess effectivity and efficiency of different modes of drug delivery to the members. Data gathered during monitoring and evaluation shall be used to improve the conduct of the benefit once it will be rolled out to all members of PhilHealth in all regions of the country.

4. Who are eligible to be nominated for PCB2?

For the pilot test, only Indigent and SponsoredProgram members who were assessed of >30% risk using the Package for Essential Non-Communicable Diseases Guidelines (PEN Guidelines) are entitled to PCB2. Those with identified risks shall be nominated by the physician in the health care provider with the specific medication for the patient for them to be able to get their monthly supply of maintenance medications.

5. How many people are entitled to PCB2 per household? Can entitlement be transferred within the family?

For the pilot test, only one member per family is entitled to avail of the PCB2 package. In case more than one family member is eligible for PCB2, they shall agree among themselves, guided by the PCB1 physician, on who will avail of the package. In case of transfer of entitlement to a different member within the family, the health care provider must notify the LHIO to reconcile their database.

6. Up to how many medications can one member get?

There is no limit as to how many medications an entitled member can get as long as it is in the list of allowable medicines for PCB2 and it is prescribed by the health care provider.

7. Is monthly checkup with the health care provider necessary?

Yes. The request for refill of medications is done by the health care provider monthly under the assumption that the member was assessed. Monthly assessment is necessary in order to determine if medications to be given are still appropriate for the member. For special instances wherein this will not be the case (e.g. medication delivery every 3 months), a written agreement with the member, health care provider and drug institution shall be submitted to the LHIO for notice.

8. Can other drug outlets participate for the PCB2 pilot test?

For the pilot test, only the assigned drug outlets shall be allowed to participate to ensure proper assessment of the process. The pilot test is designed to assess effectivity and efficiency of different modes of drug delivery to the members. Data gathered during monitoring and evaluation shall be used to improve the conduct of the benefit once it will be rolled out to all members of PhilHealth in all regions of the country, and for all interested drug providers to participate in.

9. Where will members get their medications?

Distribution of the medications shall be the responsibility of the drug outlets using the predetermined drug delivery system for the said site. The drug outlets shall inform the primary care provider on the method of delivery, who shall then instruct the member accordingly.

10. Can other arrangements for medicine delivery (eg. every 3 months) be accommodated for PCB2?

There are predetermined methods of drug delivery for the specified innovation sites which has taken into consideration important aspects of delivery such as amount and geographic location. This method shall be agreed upon by the LHIO, drug outlet and primary care provider prior to implementation of PCB2.

11. Who will be paid for the PCB2 benefit?

The drug outlets shall be reimbursed for each unit of medicine that is availed through PCB2 based on agreed price caps. The primary care provider shall also be given incentives for performing risk assessment to all members and dependents.

12. Can the health care provider prescribe other medications outside of the list for PCB2?

Yes. The health care provider can still prescribe other medications outside the list for PCB2 if needed by the member and dependent. But, medications outside the specified list shall not be included in the benefit.

13. Can a member be both eligible for PCB2 and DOH Complete Treatment Pack Program (ComPack)?

Yes. A PCB2 eligible member can still avail of DOH ComPacks especially for medications outside the PCB2 package.

14. Will PhilHealth reimburse out of pocket medicine expenses by the member for the same drugs in the package?

No. PhilHealth shall only pay the accredited drug outlets as reimbursement for each unit of medication that was availed through PCB2 through using agreed price caps.

15. Is constant internet connection a requirement for the health care provider to participate in PCB2?

No. Although internet connection is necessary to transmit the reports to the PhilHealth, the software allows for offline use and delayed transmission of reports. But, the health care provider shall inform the LHIO of their connection status and submission of reports for the cut-off period to avoid problems in processing.