

TAMANG SAGOT

PhilHealth Circular No. 18 - 2015

Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Management of Uncomplicated Cataract in Adults

1. What prompted PhilHealth to introduce this policy?

Based on our claims data, cataract is consistently one of the top claimed procedures. PhilHealth needs to ensure that the health care standards for the diagnosis and management of cataract are uniform throughout the country.

2. What is the purpose of managing a patient with cataract?

- a) correction of visual impairment
- b) maintenance of quality of life
- c) prevention of progression

3. Is it safe to perform cataract surgery on both eyes at the same time?

Based on the guidelines developed by the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology and international organizations mentioned in the Circular, simultaneous cataract extraction is not recommended.

4. What are the hints a patient with cataract may need to know if the eye surgeon follows the standard of care?

- a) Assessment – perform comprehensive examination of the case
- b) Management – discuss options for non surgical or surgical management of cataract
- c) Post operative care – provide post operative instructions, medications and follow-up
- d) Patient education and referral – provide advices about cataract

5. What is Cataract Pre-surgery Authorization (CPSA)?

The approved request of CPSA is a requirement for claim reimbursement. Request shall be submitted to PhilHealth at least five (5) working days prior to the contemplated date of surgery.

6. What are the new rules in CPSA?

- a) Starting August 1, 2015 and onwards, PhilHealth shall authorize only up to a maximum of 50 requests for CPSA per PhilHealth-accredited eye surgeon per month not exceeding 10 scheduled surgeries per day per PhilHealth-accredited eye surgeon.
- b) The limit on the number of CPSA requests and cataract surgeries shall apply to all health care providers except for those performed by residents-in-training in accredited government and private HCIs with a Philippine Board of Ophthalmology (PBO) – accredited residency training program.

7. Clarification on the effectivity of CPSA limit

Starting August 15, 2015, cataract surgery performed by residents-in-training in accredited government and private HCIs with a Philippine Board of Ophthalmology (PBO) – accredited residency training program shall be exempted from the limit.

Table 1. Guide for Health Care Professionals in Determining Applicability of Limit on Number of CPSA requests and Cataract Surgeries

Patient Type	Government HCI with PBO accredited program	Government HCI without PBO accredited program	Private HCI with PBO accredited program	Private HCI without PBO accredited program
Private patients	Subject to limit	Subject to limit	Subject to limit	Subject to limit
Non-private patients	Not subject to limit *	Subject to limit	Not subject to limit *	Subject to limit
Service patients	Not subject to limit *	Subject to limit	Not subject to limit *	Subject to limit
NBB-eligible patients	Not subject to limit *	Subject to limit	Not subject to limit *	Subject to limit