

Tamang Sagot

PhilHealth Circular No. 2017-0024

Adjustment in the Premium Contributions of the Employed Sector To Sustain the NHIP

1. What is the legal basis of this Circular?

National Health Insurance Act of 2013

“It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost and to provide free medical care to paupers. Towards this end, the State shall provide comprehensive health care services to all Filipinos through a socialized health insurance program that will prioritize the health care needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDS), women and children and provide free health care services to indigents.”

Section 35. The National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) aims to provide its members with responsive benefit packages. In view of this, the Corporation shall continuously endeavor to improve its benefit package to meet the needs of its members.

Section 28 of the NHI Act of 2013 mandates that all members who can afford to pay shall contribute to the Fund in accordance with a reasonable, equitable and progressive contribution schedule based on sound actuarial studies and in accordance with existing policies that the monthly premium contributions of members in the formal economy and their employers shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the employee’s basic monthly salary (Section 28[a]); and that the minimum contributions for the employed members shall not be lesser than the contributions made on behalf of indigent members (Section 28[c]).

2. Why do we need to adjust the premium contribution?

The adjustment in premium contributions to the NHIP is necessary to sustain the various enhancements to program benefits introduced in recent years and to further come up with and sustain future benefits to effectively respond to the growing health care financing needs of all members, such as:

- Benefits of Senior Citizens
- Expansion of Z-Benefits
- PCB for Non-Indigents
- Enhanced Case Rates

3. Who are covered under the Circular?

This Circular covers all employed members in the Formal Economy, including Kasambahays, Family Drivers, and Sea-Based Overseas Filipino Workers, and all employers in the government and private sectors.

4. When is the effectivity date of this Circular?

This Circular shall take effect on the applicable month of January 2018 onwards.

5. What is the new premium contribution rate?

The monthly premium contributions shall be at the rate of 2.75% computed straight based on the monthly basic salary, with a salary floor of ₱10,000.00 and a ceiling of ₱40,000.00, to be equally shared by the employees and their employer.