

# TAMANG SAGOT

PhilHealth Circular No. 2018-00214

Enhancement of Newborn Care Package

Published December 21, 2018 in Philippine Star

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## 1. What is Newborn Care Package?

Newborn Care Package (NCP) is a PhilHealth benefit package for essential health services of the newborn during the first few days of life. It covers essential newborn care, newborn screening and hearing screening tests.

- I. The Essential Newborn Care involves the following health practices to newborn care which have been proven to improve the health outcomes of the baby:
  - a. Immediate drying of the baby;
  - b. Early skin to skin contact;
  - c. Timely cord clamping;
  - d. Non-separation of mother/baby for early breast feeding initiation;
  - e. Eye prophylaxis and Vitamin K administration;
  - f. Weighing of the baby;
  - g. First dose of hepatitis B Vaccine; and
  - h. First dose of BCG Vaccine.
- II. Newborn Screening Test is a blood test done on the newborn after 24 to 72 hours after birth. It enables early detection and management of several congenital disorders, which may lead to mental retardation and/or death if untreated.
- III. Newborn Hearing Screening Test is a test done on the newborn to detect congenital hearing loss.

## 2. What are the eligibility conditions for newborn to avail of the NCP?

Newborns are eligible for NCP if all of the following are met:

- I. Either of the parents are eligible to avail of the benefits, newborns having qualified dependents are also eligible;
- II. They were born in accredited facilities that perform deliveries, such as hospitals and birthing homes; and
- III. Services were availed of upon delivery.

### 3. What are the requirements for the Health Care Institutions (HCIs) to reimburse with the NCP?

Health Care Institutions may claim for NCP if the following are met:

- I. HCI are accredited facilities that can perform deliveries.
- II. The newborn is eligible to claim for NCP.
- III. The newborn is attended by an accredited health care professional.
- IV. Essential newborn care and newborn screening were given to the newborn prior to discharge.

### 4. What are the benefits being enhanced in this circular?

The Newborn Care Package was enhanced to cover the expanded newborn screening test instead of just the 6-panel NBS. The ENBS cost more than the 6-panel test. Hence the NCP was increased to cover for the additional cost of ENBS.

	Old NCP	Enhanced NCP
<b>Package Code</b>	99432	99460
<b>Rate</b>	Php 1,750.00	Php 2,950.00
<b>Components</b>		
Professional fee	Php 500.00	Php 500.00
Essential Newborn Care	Php 500.00	Php 500.00
Newborn Screening Test (NBS)	Php 550.00 (6-panel NBS)	Php 1,750.00 (Expanded NBS)
Newborn Hearing Screening Test	Php 200.00	Php 200.00

### 5. What is the difference between the 6-panel test and the expanded newborn screening test (ENBS)?

The 6-panel newborn screening test only tests for the 6 inborn errors of metabolism. The expanded newborn screening test will screen for 28 and more disorders including problems in metabolism and hemoglobinopathies. The complete list of disorders being screened is attached on the Circular and may also be viewed on the Newborn Screening Reference Center website ([www.nsrc.ph](http://www.nsrc.ph)).

### 6. What are the standards for the NCP?

The standards of care for each component of the NCP are provided on the following issuances:

- 1) Essential Newborn Care – DOH Administrative Order 2009 -025;

- 2) Newborn Screening Test – Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9288 (Newborn Screening Act of 2004) and DOH Administrative Order 2014-0045; and
- 3) Newborn Hearing Screening Test – Revised Manual of Procedures of Republic Act 9709 (Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act of 2009).

**7. There are cases when the baby was born pre-term or small, and a repeat newborn screening must be done. Will PhilHealth pay for this?**

When the newborn is sick, appropriate case rate may be reimbursed as first case rate and NCP is claimed as second case rate. In cases when second newborn screening is warranted such as pre-term or low birth weight babies, the repeat screening shall be charged to the first case rate.

**8. How about those facility that has remaining filter cards for 6-panel, will they still be able to use it?**

The facility may still perform the 6-panel NBS, and claim for the NCP until **April 30, 2019**. The Circular provides a transition period to give time for the facilities to use or return the filter cards for the 6-panel NBS. If 6-panel test was done, the NCP claim shall use the old package code 99432, and if **expanded NBS** was already done, then the claim shall use the new package code **99460**. However, starting **May 1, 2019** all babies born (date of admission) should receive services with expanded NBS. NCP claims with 6-panel test will no longer be paid. Possible scenarios are shown on Table 1 below.

Table 1. Examples to Illustrate Transition Period for the 6-Panel Newborn Screening Test

Date of Publication: December 21, 2018			
Effective Date: January 6, 2019			
End of Transition Period: April 30, 2019			
Newborn Services Performed	Date of Birth/Admission	Claims Filing	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• Expanded Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	December 22, 2018	File as Package Code 99432	Circular though published is not yet effective.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• 6-panel Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	December 22, 2018	File as Package Code 99432	Circular though published is not yet effective.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• Expanded Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	January 6, 2019	File as 99460	Circular is effective by January 6, 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• 6-panel Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	January 6, 2019	File as 99432	Transition Period Although Circular is effective, only 6-panel NBS was done. Hence, should be claimed using the old code.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• 6-panel Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	April 30, 2019	File as 99432	Last day of Transition Period Only 6-panel NBS was done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• 6-panel Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	May 1, 2019	Deny claim	Claims with 6-panel test shall be denied. All newborns should be tested for expanded NBS starting May 1, 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Essential Newborn Care</li> <li>• Expanded Newborn Screening</li> <li>• Newborn Hearing Screening Test</li> </ul>	May 1, 2019	File as 99460	All newborns should be tested for expanded NBS starting May 1, 2019

#### 9. What are the documents needed in the claim?

The attachments are listed on Annex G of the Circular which are the following:

1. Claims Signature Form (CSF) with attached Filter Card Sticker
2. Properly accomplished PhilHealth Membership Registration Form (PMRF)
3. Claim Form 2 – If applicable
4. Statement of Account
5. Result of Newborn Hearing Screening Test – If applicable
6. Newborn Hearing Screening Registry Card (Blue Form) – If applicable, starting July 1, 2019

Claim Signature Form (CSF) may be downloaded from

[http://www.philhealth.gov.ph/downloads/claim/ClaimSignatureForm\\_2018.pdf](http://www.philhealth.gov.ph/downloads/claim/ClaimSignatureForm_2018.pdf)

10. **Where can we get the newborn hearing screening registry card?**

For any information regarding newborn hearing screening (i.e. training, certification and registry cards), you may get in touch with Child Health Division – Family Health Cluster of DOH Centers for Health Development (CHD) in you respective regions. You may also visit the website of Newborn Hearing Screening Reference Center (NHSRC) ([www.newbornhearingscreening.ph](http://www.newbornhearingscreening.ph))

For any updates, please visit our website: [www.philhealth.gov.ph](http://www.philhealth.gov.ph) where we post all our circulars, advisories and news.

Further inquiries may be directed to our Corporate Action Center at (02) 441-74442 or through [actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph](mailto:actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph)