



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

Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City  
 Call Center: (02) 8441-7442 | Trunkline: (02) 8441-7444  
 www.philhealth.gov.ph



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
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February 10, 2020

**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 2020-0004

**TO : ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : Enhancement of packages related to Coronavirus Infection**

**I. RATIONALE**

The Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care law essentially declares in Section 2, (b) that as one of its underlying principles and policies the state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to ensure that all Filipinos are protected from “hazards and risks that could affect their health”.

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel Coronavirus is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. A recent example is the 2019-nCoV, which causes COVID-19.

In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia. The Corporation has existing packages for Pneumonia whose causative agent is a virus, including Coronavirus. However, the initial symptoms may be innocuous, competent physicians may need to strictly surveil those identified as Patients Under Investigation or PUI in an Isolation Room of a healthcare institution.

The existing package that may be accessed by PUI for the 2019-nCoV infection need to be enhanced to become more relevant in the concerted effort to address the growing public concern. Hence, the PhilHealth Board of Directors gave the Corporation an explicit policy direction to craft the initial guidelines for the Isolation Package, while reiterating the availability of the existing case rates for those with a more catastrophic course in the ward via PBR No. 2497, s.2020.

**II. OBJECTIVE**

This policy shall provide guidelines in enhancing the existing benefit package for Coronavirus as well as reiterate the spectrum of other existing packages that may be availed of by those who are PUI and those identified as confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV.

**III. COVERAGE**

This Circular shall apply to all level 3, all level 2, and some level 1 licensed hospitals (those identified by DOH that can provide appropriate quarantine to PUI; whether suspected or a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV, from the general population).

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**IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- A. **Close contact**- is defined as requiring greater than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case in any setting, or the sharing of a closed space with a confirmed case for a prolonged period (e.g. more than 2 hours).
- B. **Confirmatory Test**- confirmation of cases of the novel virus infection will be based on specific detection of unique sequences of viral nucleic acid by real time reverse-transcriptase- polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.
- C. **Confirmed case**- A person with laboratory confirmation of 2019-nCoV infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.
- D. **Patients Under Investigation**- those who present with clinical features (example: Fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness) and epidemiologic risk:
  - 1. A history of travel to high-risk areas (e.g. Wuhan, etc.) with confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in the last 14 days before onset of symptoms OR
  - 2. A history of **close contact** with a person who is either a confirmed case or under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill in a hospital.
- E. **2019 Novel Corona Virus (2019-nCoV)**- is a new coronavirus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China.
- F. **COVID-19** – refers to the disease or condition caused by the 2019 Novel Corona Virus (2019-nCoV).

**V. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The Corporation has a comprehensive set of packages that address the spectrum of care of the PUI, confirmed 2019-nCoV, and cases wherein 2019-nCoV infection was eventually ruled out. These include the Isolation package, Referral package, and the existing All Case Rates:

**A. ISOLATION PACKAGE**

- 1. For Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV, they can avail of this new policy enhancement. It is for admissions whose main purpose is to provide quarantine and appropriate management to a PUI. This is preferably for higher level licensed hospitals (level 2-3). Confirmatory tests for 2019 nCoV must be performed on the PUI as provided by existing guidelines.
- 2. For Confirmed cases of 2019 nCoV with mild symptoms, if the course in the ward is unremarkable and eventually discharged, the Isolation package may be claimed.
- 3. For PUI who tested negative for 2019-nCoV, they may claim the Isolation package if 2019-nCoV infection was ruled out within the admission.
- 4. The Case Rate amount is **Php 14,000.00** as approved by the PhilHealth's Board of Directors.
- 5. The HCI fee and Professional Fee shall be 70% and 30% respectively.

Table 1.

ICD-10 Code	Description	Amount
Z29.0	Admission to protect the individual from his or her surroundings or for isolation of individual after contact with	Php 14,000.00

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infectious disease

**B. REFERRAL PACKAGE:**

1. PUI for 2019-nCoV infection shall be covered by this package which the patient can claim if the same was initially seen in a lower level facility, was determined to meet the criteria provided by existing guidelines for those who need to be referred to a higher level for quarantine.
2. This was specifically designed for the referring hospital. They shall be given a fixed amount of **Php 4,000.00** (which will redound to the member's hospital bill as his or her PhilHealth benefit) for the initial management, stabilization and proper transit of patient to the referral hospital.
3. The HCI fee and Professional Fee shall be 70% and 30% respectively.

Table 2.

Package Code	Description	Amount
P0001	Referral package	Php 4,000.00

**C. EXISTING CASE RATE PACKAGES:** Such as Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome, Pneumonia, Sepsis, and procedures like Hemodialysis may be claimed **instead** of the Isolation Package, based on clinical presentation and management during the course in the ward.

**VI. CLAIMS FILING**

- A. Completely and properly accomplished PhilHealth Claim Signature Form.
- B. Completely and properly accomplished PhilHealth Claim Forms 1 & 2.
  1. **For Isolation Package:**
    - a. Write ICD-10 Codes **"Z29.0"** on the space for Item #9 in Claim Form 2 to indicate that the claim is for the Isolation package with a case rate of P14,000.00.
    - b. Write the appropriate ICD-10 Code/s on the spaces for Item #7 in Claim Form 2 for any other medical condition/s managed during the confinement ("**U07.1**" if the patient is a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV with mild symptoms).
    - c. If the admission was purely for observation and the patient eventually tested negative, ICD-10 Code **"Z03.8"** should be written on the space for Item #7 in Claim Form 2.
  2. **For Referral Package:**
    - a. Write Package Code **"P0001"** on the space for Item #9 in Claim Form 2 to indicate that the claim is for the Referral package with a case rate of P4,000.00
    - b. Write ICD-10 Code **"Z03.8"** on the space for Item #7 in Claim Form 2.
  3. **For Existing Case Rate Packages:**
    - a. Write the ICD-10 Code for the Case Rate package being claimed for the episode of care (example: **"J80"** for Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome) on the space for Item #9 in Claim Form 2 to indicate that the claim is for other existing case rate package instead of the Isolation package.

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- b. Write the appropriate ICD-10 Code/s on the spaces for Item #7 in Claim Form 2 for any other medical condition/s managed during the confinement.
- c. Write ICD-10 Code for 2019-nCoV, "U07.1" on the space for Item #7 in Claim Form 2, if the patient is a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV.
- C. Completely and properly accomplished PhilHealth Claim Form 4.
- D. For non-members availing of the benefit, PhilHealth Membership Registration Form (PMRF) must be properly accomplished and submitted.
- E. The Statement of Account (SOA) shall be required.
- F. Photocopy of the confirmatory tests and results for 2019 nCoV, as provided by existing guidelines, must accompany the filed claim.

**VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

All HCPs shall be subject to the rules on monitoring and evaluation of performance as stipulated in PhilHealth Circular No. 54, s-2012 Provider Engagement through Contracting and Accreditation of Health Services (PEACHes) and PhilHealth Circular No. 2018-0019 re: Health Care Provider Performance Assessment System (revision 2).

**VIII. SANCTION AND PENALTIES**

Any violation of this Circular, as well as the terms and conditions of the Performance Commitment and all existing related PhilHealth circulars, office orders and directives shall be dealt with in accordance with the pertinent provisions of RA 7875, as amended by RA 9241, RA 10606, RA 11223 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Violations shall be dealt with accordingly and the Corporation reserves the right to rectify any prejudicial financial charges of the hospital to ultimately redound back to the patient.

**IX. REITERATION OF THE NO BALANCE BILLING (NBB) POLICY**

The No Balance Billing Policy shall be applicable to claims relative to this policy subject to existing NBB rules and regulations.

**X. REPEALING CLAUSE**

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

**XI. EFFECTIVITY**

This Circular shall take effect for admissions starting January 30, 2020.

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 DC: JJ Date: 02/18/2020

**BGEN RICARDO C. MORALES, AFP (RET) FICD**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: 2/11/2020

