



Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

No. 2021-0002

TO : ALL PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : PhilHealth Coverage for Hemodialysis Sessions to a Maximum of 144 Sessions for CY 2020

I. RATIONALE

Concerns about the affordability of health care, especially during a pandemic, should be addressed as they may affect health-seeking decisions and prevent patients from obtaining life-saving services. Limited coverage for essential health services, such as hemodialysis, can be a constant financial barrier to accessing health care which can push people to financial hardship. These concerns have been recently amplified due to the economic and health effects brought about by COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act (Republic Act No. 11223), PhilHealth is mandated to ensure financial risk protection for all Filipinos. This has been further emphasized by Republic Act No. 11494, or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, which seeks to provide adequate social services and enhance the capacity of the health care system to mitigate the effects of life-threatening concerns by ensuring adequate financial support for health care and Proclamation No. 1021, s. 2020 "Extending the period of the Statement of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 declared under Proclamation No. 929, s. 2020" effective until 12 September 2021.

The PhilHealth Board through PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 1848 s. 2013, has conferred special privileges to health care providers, members and their dependents who are affected by fortuitous events and emergencies. Among these privileges include exemption from 45-day annual benefit limit and the single period of confinement. Meanwhile, in 2015, PhilHealth extended the coverage of hemodialysis to 90 sessions.

As the whole country is placed under the state of calamity due to COVID-19 through Proclamation No. 1021, s.2020, PhilHealth through Board Resolution No. 2574 s. 2020, sets the maximum limit of hemodialysis sessions covered by PhilHealth and ratify payments for CY 2020.

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 DC: mys Date: 2/17/21



II. OBJECTIVES

This PhilHealth Circular aims to establish the guidelines for availing of PhilHealth benefit for outpatient hemodialysis to a maximum of 144 sessions for calendar year (CY)2020.

III. SCOPE

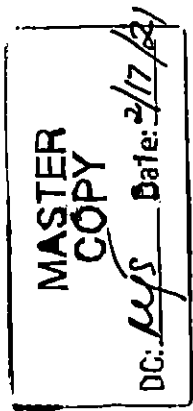
This policy applies to PhilHealth members and their dependents with chronic kidney disease stage 5 (CKD5) who are currently enrolled in the PhilHealth Dialysis Database (PDD). This shall cover members and their dependents as defined in Sections 6.1 and 9.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the UHC Act to provide that every Filipino “shall be granted immediate eligibility”. This policy covers for all hemodialysis beyond the ninety (90) to a maximum of one-hundred-forty-four (144) sessions for CY 2020 until December 31, 2020.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. **Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5 (CKD 5)** – is an end stage renal disease (ESRD) with a glomerular filtration rate (GFR) of 15 ml/minute or less. At this advanced stage of kidney disease, the kidneys have lost nearly all their ability to do their job effectively, and eventually dialysis or a kidney transplant is needed to live. This kind of kidney failure is permanent and is usually caused by diabetes or high blood pressure (PhilHealth Circular No. 2016-007).
- B. **PhilHealth Dialysis Database (PDD)** - is a system that collects data on members and dependents diagnosed of CKD 5 (previously known as ESRD) who are prescribed with hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, or other renal replacement therapy (PhilHealth Circular No. 2016-007).

V. POLICY STATEMENTS

- A. For CY 2020, patients with CKD5 may avail of the benefit for hemodialysis sessions up to a maximum of one hundred forty-four (144) sessions based on the prescription of their attending physician.
- B. Patients with CKD5 shall be registered in the PDD in accordance with PhilHealth Circular No. 2016 – 0007.
- C. The 91st to 144th additional sessions shall be exclusively used for outpatient hemodialysis.
- D. Any unused sessions will not be carried over to CY 2021 or subsequent years.
- E. Patients who did not have any deductions of the PhilHealth hemodialysis benefit from their actual charges and have paid for their 91st to 144th hemodialysis sessions through out-of-pocket expense may directly file their claims with the PhilHealth Regional/Branch Office or Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) based on existing guidelines stated on PhilHealth Circular No. 20 s. 2014..(ACR Policy No. 4 - Directly Filed Claims for All Case Rates and Return to Sender).



- F. However, claims in which total hemodialysis benefits were already deducted from the patient's actual charges shall be filed by health care providers.
- G. The No Balance Billing (NBB) Policy (PC No. 2017 – 0017) shall apply.
- H. The health care providers shall be subjected to the rules on monitoring and evaluation of performance as provided for in PhilHealth Circular 2018-0019: Health Care Provider Performance Assessment System (HCP PAS) Revision 2.
- I. Accredited health care providers shall ensure full compliance to all provisions in performance commitments and rules and regulations governing PhilHealth accreditation.

VI. PENALTY CLAUSE


Any violation of this PhilHealth Circular shall be dealt with and penalized in accordance with pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 11223 and R.A. No. 10606, and their respective implementing Rules and Regulations.

VII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

In the event that any part or provision of this Circular is declared unauthorized or rendered invalid by any Court of Law or competent authority, those provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain valid and effective.

VIII. DATE OF EFFECTIVITY

This PhilHealth Circular shall take effect immediately upon publication and shall apply to all hemodialysis beyond the ninety (90) to a maximum of one-hundred-forty-four (144) sessions for CY 2020 until December 31, 2020. This shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation. A copy shall thereafter be deposited with the National Administrative Register, University of the Philippines Law Center.


ATTY. DANTE A. GIERRAN, CPA
 President and Chief Executive Officer (PCEO)

Date signed: 2-17-21

MASTER COPY
 DC: mjs Date: 2/17/21

