

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
 No. 2021-0018

TO : ALL PHILHEALTH ACCREDITED SARS-CoV-2 TESTING LABORATORIES, PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Extension of Filing Period and Submission of Additional Requirement for SARS-CoV-2 Testing Benefit Packages

I. RATIONALE

In 2020, as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PhilHealth introduced benefits for SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR tests. This is in line with the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act which states that "the cost of testing and treatment for COVID-19 patients shall be covered under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)".

As the country is placed under a state of national calamity due to COVID-19 per Proclamation No. 1218 s. 2021 effective until September 12, 2022, "all government agencies and LGUs are enjoined to continue rendering full assistance to and cooperation with each other and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate disaster response aid and measures in timely manner to curtail and eliminate the threat of COVID-19".

Given this, the PhilHealth Board of Directors, through PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 2636 s. 2021, approved the extension of filing of claims for SARS-CoV-2 testing until September 12, 2021 whether refiled, or pending due to motion for reconsideration, for appeal, directly filed, or yet to be filed.

Likewise, PhilHealth Circular Nos. 2021-0001 and 2021-0003 on benefits for SARS-CoV-2 testing packages required a Certification of classification of at-risk individuals and actual charges (Annex "E"). In addition, PhilHealth issued PC No. 2021-0012 titled "Modification on the Payment Rules of Benefit Packages under All Case Rates (ACR) Policy including COVID-19 Benefit Packages" requiring a statement of account (SOA) or its equivalent in the submission of claims including testing claims. Cognizant of different set-ups in testing centers, there is a need to provide a transition period on the submission of the said documents.

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II. OBJECTIVES

This PhilHealth Circular aims to provide guidelines on the extension of filing period for SARS-CoV-2 testing claims and clarify the transition period for submission of requirements for SARS-CoV-2 claims.

III. SCOPE

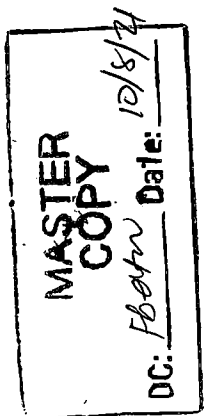
This PhilHealth Circular shall apply to all PhilHealth beneficiaries tested for SARS-CoV-2 per Department of Health (DOH) prescribed guidelines; and SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories (DOH-licensed and PhilHealth-accredited; hospital- and non-hospital-based). This shall also apply to all claims for RT-PCR tests from June 25, 2020 and cartridge-based PCR test SARS-CoV-2 tests from July 23, 2020.

Claims for testing submitted starting September 13, 2021 shall be subject to regular rules on late filing. Further, the implementation date of the "Certificate of Classification of At-Risk Individuals and Actual Charges for SARS-CoV-2 Test" shall be on October 1, 2021.

IV. POLICY STATEMENTS

A. Extension of Filing Period

1. In line with PBR No. 2636 s.2021, claims filed for SARS-CoV-2 testing with dates of specimen collection starting June 25, 2020 for RT-PCR tests and July 23, 2020 for cartridge-based PCR tests shall be processed for payment if filed on or before September 12, 2021 provided the following conditions are met:
 - a. Claims for initial filing shall be submitted through electronic claims (eClaims). Claims submission through portable storage devices shall not be allowed;
 - b. Claims that were filed manually and already received by PhilHealth but were returned to health care facility for compliance of deficiencies shall be refiled manually;
 - c. Claims that were submitted via eClaims but were returned to the health care facility for compliance of deficiencies shall be refiled through eClaims;
 - d. Claims that were denied solely on the ground of late filing or refiled but have pending motions for reconsideration (MR) or appeal, shall be reconsidered or the appeal granted, as the case may be. The claims shall then be returned to the concerned PhilHealth Regional Office for re-processing and payment. However, claims under MR or appeal that have other reasons for denial, aside from late filing/refiling, shall be adjudicated in accordance with existing rules.
2. Claims referred to in Section IV.A.1 letters a to c shall not be denied solely on the basis of late filing.
3. PhilHealth members and dependents belonging to the identified subgroups of at-risk individuals (DOH Department Memorandum 2020-0258-A¹ or its applicable amendments) who were tested within the applicable period and paid for their RT-



¹ <https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/health-update/dm2020-0258-A.pdf>



PCR tests may directly file claims to any PhilHealth Regional Offices or Local Health Insurance Offices subject to the submission of the required documents and rules on direct filing.

B. Transition Period for Submission of Certificate of Classification of At-risk Individuals and Actual Charges for SARS-CoV-2 Test

1. Certificate of Subgroups of At-risk Individuals and Actual Charges for SARS-CoV-2 Test as stated in Annex E of PhilHealth Circular Nos. 2021-0001 and 2021-0003 is required for claims filing of SARS-CoV-2 testing benefits. However, to give time for the facilities to prepare and incorporate the generation of this Certificate in their process, PhilHealth requires its submission starting October 1, 2021. Hence, claims submitted without the said Certificate prior to October 1, 2021 should be accepted and processed accordingly provided that other requirements are present.
2. As the Certificate already contains the information on the actual charges, discounts, and PhilHealth benefit package amount, it shall also be considered as equivalent to statement of account (SOA) for the purpose of determining the payable amount per Section V.A. of PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0012.
3. As a guide for claims filing, the list of requirements with the applicable period is indicated in Annex A of this PhilHealth Circular (Annex A – Table of Requirements and Applicable Period) which shall be uploaded in the PhilHealth website. It is reiterated that the reckoning date shall be the date of specimen collection.

V. PENALTY CLAUSE

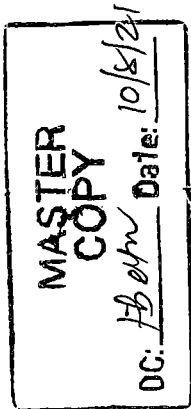
All adverse monitoring findings regarding non-compliance to the relevant provisions of this policy and other related issuance shall be validated and subject to health care provider performance assessment system without prejudice to the filing of appropriate legal action.

VI. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this PhilHealth Circular shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected and shall remain enforceable.

VII. REPEALING CLAUSE

Section V.C.15 of PC Nos. 2021-0001 and PC 2021-0003 and implementation date for Section V.C.4.d of PC Nos. 2021-0001 and PC 2021-0003, are hereby amended. Other issuances that are inconsistent with this PhilHealth Circular are hereby modified, amended, and repealed accordingly.

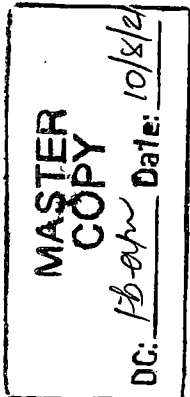


VIII. DATE OF EFFECTIVITY

This PhilHealth Circular shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette, a copy thereof shall thereafter be deposited at the Office of the National Administrative Register of University of the Philippines Law Center.


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

Date signed: 10-5-2021



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**Annex A. Table of Requirements and
 Applicable Period**

Table 1: Table of Requirements and Applicable Period

Inclusive dates (based on date of specimen collection)	Subgroups of at-risk individuals	Applicable DOH issuance for the subgroups	Claims Requirements for the facility (outpatient)	Applicable PhilHealth Policy
June 25 – July 15, 2020	A to F	DOH DM 2020-258 (May 29, 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSF electronic format • Case Investigation Form (CIF) • Itemized Billing including reader's fee – electronic format (for admitted patients only) 	Refer to PC No. 2020-0017
July 16, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021	A to J	DOH DM 2020-258-A (July 6, 2020); published on the website July 16, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSF electronic format* • CIF • Itemized Billing including reader's fee – electronic format (for admitted patients only) 	Refer to PC No. 2021-001
July 23, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021 cartridge -based RT-PCR	A to J	DOH DM 2020-258-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSF electronic format • CIF • Itemized Billing including reader's fee – electronic format (for admitted patients only) 	Refer to PC No. 2021 -003
October 1, 2021 onwards	A to J	DOH DM 2020-258-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSF electronic format • CIF • Itemized Billing including reader's fee – electronic format (for admitted patients only) • Annex E -Certificate of Classification of At-Risk Individuals and Actual Charges For SARS-CoV-2 Test 	

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For direct filing, only the following documents are required:

- Official receipt (original copy);
- Waiver for directly filed claims for the SARS-CoV-2 testing package (original, photocopy, or printed scanned copy); and
- CIF indicating the subgroup where the patient belongs (original, photocopy, or printed scanned copy)

*Claims Summary Form (CSF) Format was updated last May 26, 2021. Please see Annex C of PC Nos 2021-001 and 2021-003.

