



Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

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UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
KALUSUGAN AT BALINGKA PARA SA LAHAT

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

No. 2022-0017

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

SUBJECT : PhilHealth Coverage for Outpatient Hemodialysis Benefit to a Maximum of 144 Sessions for CY 2022

I. RATIONALE

Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5 (CKD 5) is a fatal condition affecting millions of people worldwide. It is the seventh leading cause of death among Filipinos. According to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI), one Filipino develops chronic renal failure every hour or about 120 Filipinos per million population every year. Latest estimates show that around 2.3 million Filipinos have chronic kidney disease (CKD). In 2016, more than 36,000 patients were on dialysis treatment which reflects a 15% increase in the number of patients in just one year.

CKD 5 can be treated with kidney transplantation or renal dialysis. While kidney transplant is a definitive treatment, the low levels of organ donation, lack of infrastructure, and high cost of transplantation are barriers to access. Hence, renal dialysis remains the most viable option for renal patients in the Philippines.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the health system in our country and has led to devastating impacts on poverty and loss of human life. The cost of hemodialysis (HD) can be a financial barrier in accessing healthcare and can push the patients and their families to financial hardship.

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 Proclamation No. 1218, s. 2020 "Further Extending the period of a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 declared under Proclamation No. 1021, s. 2020" effective until 12 September 2022.

Cognizant to the needs of its members, PhilHealth intends to increase the coverage of hemodialysis while balancing the available resources to fund this benefit. The PhilHealth Board of Directors, through PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 2718, s. 2022, approved the payment of benefit claims for hemodialysis services up to a maximum of 144 sessions for CY 2022.

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II. OBJECTIVES

This PhilHealth Circular aims to establish the guidelines on avilment of PhilHealth benefit for Outpatient Hemodialysis Benefit Package to a maximum of 144 sessions for calendar year (CY) 2022.

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 2022.

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. Patients with CKD 5 shall be allowed to avail of the maximum of one hundred forty-four (144) hemodialysis sessions for CY 2022 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 2023.
- E. Prior to publication of this PhilHealth Circular, qualified CKD 5 patients who already used their 91st to 144th HD sessions and whose HD benefits have not yet been deducted from their medical bill, may directly file claims with PhilHealth Regional/Branch Office or Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) based on existing guidelines for directly filed claims (PhilHealth Circular No. 20 s. 2014 on ACR Policy No. 4 - Directly Filed Claims for All Case Rates and Return to Sender).

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- F. Upon publication of this PhilHealth Circular, claims on covered hemodialysis sessions shall be deducted from the final medical bill and filed by the health care provider.
- 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.
- J. If the delay in the filing of claims is due to natural calamities or other fortuitous events, the existing guidelines of the Corporation on the provisions of special privileges to those affected by fortuitous events shall apply.
- K. The monitoring of benefits delivery and performance of health care providers shall be anchored on PhilHealth's monitoring framework. A random post-audits shall be conducted upon implementation of this policy to monitor, evaluate, and revise this policy as necessary.

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 PhilHealth 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 in any newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette. A copy of this PhilHealth Circular shall thereafter be deposited at the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

OST
ATTY. ELI DINO D. SANTOS,
 Officer-in-Charge, Office of the President and CEO

Date signed: 8/2/22

PhilHealth Coverage for Outpatient Hemodialysis Benefit to a Maximum of 144 Sessions

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