



**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 12023-0009

**TO : ACCREDITED HEALTH FACILITIES, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : Institutionalization of 156 Hemodialysis Sessions**

**I. RATIONALE**

Republic Act (RA) No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, Sections 37(a), (b), and (c) state that portions of the funds from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) income, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) charity fund shall be transferred to PhilHealth for the improvement of benefits packages, which includes the benefits package for hemodialysis (HD). As part of benefits improvement, PhilHealth, through Board Resolution No. 2776, s.2023<sup>1</sup> shall institutionalize the expansion of the HD benefits package from 90 to 156 HD sessions that is according to current standards for adequate HD of three times per week HD sessions for 52 weeks or 156 HD sessions for the whole year.

**II. OBJECTIVES**

This PhilHealth Circular aims to establish the policy for availing of the 156 HD sessions benefits package.

**III. SCOPE**

This PhilHealth Circular shall apply to PhilHealth members and their dependents diagnosed with chronic kidney disease stage 5 (CKD5) who are registered in the PhilHealth Dialysis Database (PDD).

**IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**A. Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5 (CKD5)** refers to end stage renal disease (ESRD) or an advanced stage of kidney disease resulting to irreversible loss of nearly all ability to remove toxic by-products from the blood.

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 Dr. [Signature]

- B. Hemodialysis (HD)** refers to the medical procedure of removing fluid and waste products from the blood, and correcting electrolyte imbalances. This is accomplished using a synthetic membrane or dialyzer, which is also referred to as an “artificial kidney”.
- C. PhilHealth Dialysis Database (PDD)** refers to a system that collects data on members and dependents diagnosed with CKD5 (previously known as ESRD) who are prescribed with HD, peritoneal dialysis (PD), or kidney transplantation (KT).<sup>2</sup>

**V. POLICY STATEMENTS**

- A. Patients diagnosed with CKD5 on hemodialysis treatment shall be allowed to avail of 156 HD treatment sessions per year based on the prescription of their nephrologists.
- B. All patients diagnosed with CKD5 shall be registered in the PDD in accordance with PC No. 2016 – 0007, titled: “PhilHealth Dialysis Database (PDD)”.
- C. The package rate for HD treatment is Php2,600 per HD session, divided between health facility (HF) and professional.

Package Rate	HF Fee	Professional Fee
Php 2,600	Php 2,250	Php350

Table 1: Package rate for HD treatment

- D. The HD benefits package includes the use of facility and dialysis machine, PNF drugs as needed, IV solutions, supplies, dialyzer, and professional fees.
- E. The 45-day annual benefit limit shall not apply to the 156 HD benefits package. In the event that the CKD5 patient on HD needs hospital confinement, the HD session shall be filed separately and shall not overlap with the inpatient claim.
- F. Unused HD treatment sessions of the current year shall not be carried over to the succeeding year.
- G. The No Balance Billing (NBB) Policy, as stipulated under PC No. 2017 – 0017, shall apply to healthcare services contemplated by this Circular.
- H. Accredited health facility providing services for HD shall be subject to the current performance monitoring policy of PhilHealth.
- I. Accredited health facility shall comply with all the provisions in their Performance Commitment and other rules and regulations governing PhilHealth accreditation.
- J. In case of delays in the filing of claims due to natural calamity or other fortuitous events, the existing guidelines of PhilHealth on providing special privileges to those affected by fortuitous events shall apply.
- K. In order to educate the general public and increase their awareness of this benefits package and to promote informed decision-making and participation among

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<sup>2</sup> PC 2016-0007 “PhilHealth Dialysis Database (PDD)”

patients, healthcare professionals, and health facility, and other stakeholders, marketing and promotional activities shall be undertaken following the integrated marketing and communication plan of PhilHealth.

- L. The monitoring of benefits delivery and performance of health facility shall be anchored on PhilHealth's monitoring framework. Random post-audits shall be conducted upon implementation of this Circular to monitor, evaluate, and revise this policy, as necessary.

In consultation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, experts, and technical staff representing the Corporation, PhilHealth shall conduct the policy review of this benefit package as necessary.

## VI. PENALTY CLAUSE

Any violation of this PhilHealth Circular shall be dealt with and penalized in accordance with pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 9241 and 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. REPEALING CLAUSE

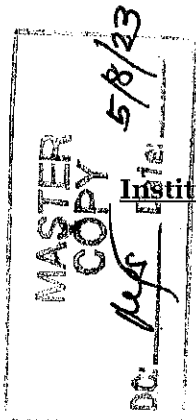
This Policy repeals PC No. 24-2015 "New PhilHealth Dialysis Package (Revision 1)".

## IX. 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.

  
**EMMANUEL R. LEDESMA, JR.**  
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer

Date signed: 5/3/2023



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