

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

No. 2024-0070

TO : ALL SOLO PARENT, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES, PRIVATE EMPLOYERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Automatic Coverage of Solo Parents and Their Children or Dependents to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)

I. RATIONALE

Section 2(a) of Republic Act No. 11861, otherwise known as the “Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act”, provides that it is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that ensures the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote, full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life. The State shall also promote social justice in all phases of national development, value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. Towards these ends, the government shall support the natural and primary rights and duty of solo parents in rearing their children by providing for their basic needs, and extending to them assistance in social services and welfare benefits, with the end in view of uplifting their status and circumstances.

Thus, Section 12(c) of the same law provides automatic coverage under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) being administered by the PhilHealth with premium contributions to be paid by the National Government: Provided, that the premium contribution of solo parents in the formal economy shall be shared equally by their employers and the National Government.

II. OBJECTIVES

This PhilHealth Circular is issued to provide the policy and procedural guidelines to ensure the automatic coverage of all Filipino Solo Parents including their children or dependents under the National Health Insurance Program.

III. SCOPE

This PhilHealth Circular covers the NHIP membership registration, updating, premium contributions and benefits of Filipino Solo Parents including their children or dependents as registered either in the Solo Parent Office (SPO) or Solo Parent Division (SPD) of the City or Municipality, respectively.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. Children or Dependents** - those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and twenty-two (22) years old or below, or those over twenty-two (22) years old but who are unable to fully take care or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition: Provided, that this definition shall only apply for purposes of availing the benefits under the R.A. 11861.¹
- B. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Solo Parents Centralized Database** - the list of Solo Parents who have been issued Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC) and booklets by the SPOs and SPDs which are submitted to DSWD on a quarterly basis.²
- C. Direct contributors** - those who have the capacity to pay premiums, are gainfully employed and are bound by an employer-employee relationship, or are self-earning, professional practitioners, migrant workers, including their qualified dependents, and lifetime members.³
- D. Financially Capable** - a state where a person demonstrates clear ability to pay premium contributions or spend for necessary expenditures for one's medical treatment as assessed and certified by DSWD, medical social workers, or social worker officers of the LGUs (Philhealth Circular 2019-0010).⁴
- E. Financially Incapable** - a state where a person demonstrates clear inability to pay premium contributions or spend for necessary expenditures for one's medical treatment as assessed and certified by DSWD, medical social workers, or social worker officers of the LGU (Philhealth Circular 2019-0010).⁵
- F. Indirect Contributors** - all others not included as direct contributors, as well as their qualified dependents, whose premium shall be subsidized by the national government including those who are subsidized as a result of special laws.⁶
- G. PhilHealth Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (PhilHealth Konsulta)** - a comprehensive outpatient benefits as mandated by the Universal Health Care Law.

¹ Section 3(b) of RA No. 11861, entitled "Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act".

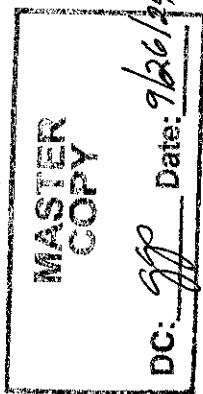
² Section 46, Article IX of the RIRR of RA 11861

³ Section 4(f) of R.A. No. 11223 (UHC Act).

⁴ Part IV(D) of DOH Administrative Order No. 2021-0044 re: "Guidelines on Determining Eligibility for Social Care, Medical and Financial Assistance, and Point of Service".

⁵ Part IV(E), *ibid.*

⁶ Section 4(o) of R.A. No. 11223 (UHC Act).



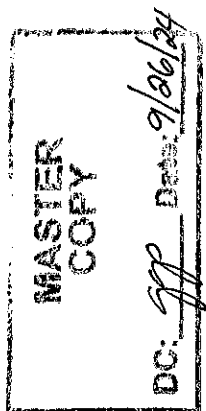
- H. Municipal/City/Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (M/C/PSWDO)** - agency or office under the Local Government Unit (LGU) that identifies and registers the Solo Parents and correspondingly issue the SPIC through the SPO/SPD.
- I. Solo Parents Office (SPO)** - the office in the City or Provincial Social Welfare Development Office which reviews and verifies the documents submitted by the Solo Parent applicants and correspondingly issues the SPIC and Booklets.
- J. Solo Parents Division (SPD)** - the unit or division in the Municipality's Social Welfare Development Office which reviews and verifies the documents submitted by the Solo Parent applicants and correspondingly issues the SPIC and Booklet.
- K. Solo Parents Identification Card** - the Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC) issued to the solo parent as his/her competent proof of identification and the primary evidence of his/her status as a solo parent to enable him/her to avail of the benefits.⁷ The SPIC contains the following information, on the frontal side: (1) the full name (first, middle and last name) of the solo parent; (2) date and place of birth; (3) residence and address; (4) Solo parent category; (5) photograph taken at the time of application or renewal of the SPIC; (6) signature and/or thumbprint; (7) validity period of the SPIC. At the dorsal side: (1) name/s, birth date/s, and relation to the solo parent of the qualified children and/or dependents; (2) Signatures, names, and designations of City/Municipal Mayor and of the Head Social Worker of the C/MSWDO; (3) At the option of the solo parent, his/her contact details may be indicated.⁸

V. POLICY STATEMENTS

- A. All solo parents and their child or dependent registered in the SPO/SPD shall be automatically covered in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). Their premium contributions shall be paid by the National Government. Provided, that premium contributions of the solo parents in the formal economy (i.e., Direct Contributors - Employed member) shall be shared equally by their employer and the National Government.
- B. The above-mentioned solo parent shall be enrolled with PhilHealth as principal member under the "Indirect Contributor" as membership type and "Solo Parent" as subtype. A revised PhilHealth Member Registration Form (PMRF) shall be issued to have the corresponding membership type and subtype for the solo parent.
- C. Only those with valid SPIC shall be registered or tagged as "Indirect Contributors - Solo Parent." The applicant shall be advised of the importance of securing first

⁷ Section 6 (ii), Article III of the RIRR of R.A. No.8972 as amended by R.A. No. 11861 or the "Expanded Solo Parents Act."

⁸ Section 10 (a) & (b), Article IV of the RIRR of R.A. No. 8972 as amended by R.A. No. 11861 or the "Expanded Solo Parents Act."



the SPIC from the SPO/SPD of the concerned LGU in order to update their membership record to PhilHealth.

D. It is important to clearly identify the solo parent subtyping, regardless if primary or co-existing as categorized above. This is to ensure that the age for the qualified children or dependents, i.e., 22 years old and below, will not be missed-out as defined hereof in Part IV (A).

E. Registration Process

1. Walk-in

a. The solo parent registrant shall submit to the nearest Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) the following documents:

a.1 Duly accomplished PMRF. Until such time the revised PMRF is issued, applicant should write the "Solo Parent" subtype and the "SPIC Number" right at the bottom of the "Indirect Contributor" membership type in Part IV of the current PMRF.

a.2 Copy of the frontal and dorsal side of the duly issued SPIC.

b. Await for the issuance of Member Data Record (MDR) and PhilHealth ID.

2. Automatic Registration Through Database

a. The centralized database of solo parents in the DSWD or that of the Municipal/City/Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (M/C/PSWDO) may be accessed by PhilHealth to automatically enroll them and their children or dependents in the NHIP.

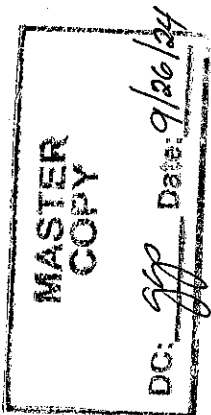
b. Those with an existing record in the PhilHealth database shall be processed through Application Program Interface (API) as follows:

b.1 Exact Match. Records from DSWD or M/C/PSWDO and PhilHealth database with exact matches shall be registered by adopting the existing PIN and updating the membership to the "Indirect Contributor – Solo Parent".

b.2 Possible Match. Records with possible matches will undergo appropriate validation in the PhilHealth Regional Office.

b.3 No match. Records with no match shall be registered as a new record to the NHIP.

c. As the responsible office in registering the Solo Parents and the issuance of SPIC, the SPOs/SPDs shall perform the regular updating and migration to the DSWD solo parent centralized database.



3. Applicant not found in the DSWD Solo Parent centralized database nor with SPIC shall instead be enrolled in the NHIP either as Direct Contributor – Self-Earning Individual or Indirect Contributor – Financially Incapable (or POS-FI), whichever is applicable, consistent with existing policies and guidelines on member registration.
4. Representatives transacting on behalf of the Solo Parent shall submit, in addition to the documents required as stated above, an authorization letter signed by the Solo Parent together with one (1) valid government-issued I.D. with photo of the representative.
5. The solo parent will be required to inform PhilHealth of the renewal of the SPIC. Otherwise, the membership system will automatically revert to the applicable co-existing sub-type.

F. Premium Contributions

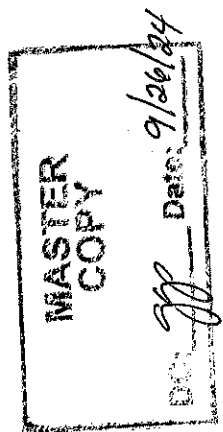
1. Pursuant to R.A. No. 11861, the premium contributions of the solo parent shall be paid by the National Government, provided, that the premium contributions of the solo parents in the formal economy (i.e., Direct Contributors - Employed member) shall be shared equally by their employers and the National Government, subject to the allocation of corresponding budget under the General Appropriation Act.
2. The revised implementing rules and regulations of the said law provides that –“there shall be a period of six (6) months to one (1) year to allow DILG, the LGUs, and DBM to identify the funds and establish mechanisms for the allocation and distribution for the additional benefits due to the qualified solo parent.”⁹ Moreover, as stated in Sec 10 of the UHC Act, the premium subsidy shall be gradually adjusted and included annually in the General Appropriation Act (GAA).

Thus, until the required budget is appropriated, the premium share of the employed solo parent shall still be paid by the said member.

G. Benefit Entitlement

1. Solo parents and their qualified dependents shall be granted immediate eligibility to the benefits of the NHIP in accordance with Section 9 of R.A. No. 11223 and PhilHealth Circular No. 2022-0013 which grants immediate eligibility to Filipino citizens. Failure to pay premium contributions shall not prevent the enjoyment of any Program benefits.
2. Solo parents shall be eligible to avail of the PhilHealth KonSulTa Package in accordance with the existing policy. The solo parents shall register, including their child or dependents, to an accredited PhilHealth Konsulta Provider of their choice.

⁹Article XV, Section 57, Transitory Period of the RIRR of the R.A. No. 11861 or the Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act.



3. Solo Parents shall be covered by existing policies on "No Co-payment"/ "No Balance Billing" benefit packages.

VI. PENALTY CLAUSE

Any violation of this PhilHealth Circular shall be dealt with and penalized in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 8972, as amended by RA No. 11861 or the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act, or the RA 7875, as amended by RA Nos. 9241 and 10606 (National Health Insurance Act of 2013) and RA No. 11223 (Universal Health Care Act).

VII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE


In the event that any provisions of this PhilHealth Circular is declared unconstitutional or rendered invalid by any Court of Law or competent authority, provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

VIII. REPEALING CLAUSE

This PhilHealth Circular modifies PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0005 [Premium Contribution Schedule in National Health Insurance Program Pursuant to R.A. No. 11223 known as Universal Health Care Act (Revision 1)] particularly, on premium contributions and age of qualified dependents in accordance with RA 11861

IX. DATE OF EFFECTIVITY

This PhilHealth Circular shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette. It shall be deposited in the Office of National Administrative Register (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines Law Center.


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

Date signed: 09/23/2024

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MASTER COPY
DC: gjp Date: 9/26/24