Along with the massive campaign of the government to cover all Filipinos with social health insurance benefits, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has initiated an education series to provide the public with a thorough understanding and appreciation of the principles of Social Health Insurance (SHI).

PhilHealth has then partnered with the academe to further instill and uphold the value of health care protection and social solidarity among the students in the medical field by developing a module that aims to institutionalize the principles of SHI into various educational systems in the country.

In an earlier statement, PhilHealth President and CEO Alexander A. Padilla cited the importance of education and the students’ valuable contribution to society. “This is the first step towards inculcating awareness, appreciation and understanding of the role that social health insurance plays in the lives of Filipinos – a better way to start the education among our future players in the health care industry,” Padilla said.

PhilHealth is continuously crafting SHI modules for various audiences to create awareness and enlighten every Filipinos’ perception on SHI.

The PhilHealth SHIInES will soon tap audiences from various sectors that include the health care providers, organized groups, informal economy, and Overseas Filipino workers and their families.

The lecture series called Social Health Insurance Education Series or SHIInES, is a nationwide information drive towards making every Filipino an advocate of SHI. It aims to map out all possible local audiences initially prioritizing the employed sector; local chief executives; media practitioners; students and the academe.

It was in 2012 when PhilHealth launched its first-ever SHIInES in Region VI, targeting the Local Chief Executives from various municipalities in the region as its primary audience. The participants were oriented on the salient points of the National Health Insurance Program, PhilHealth benefits and their role in the implementation of the program.

In the same year, the SHIInES was also presented to the House of Representatives and the Senate and was attended by Chiefs-of-staff and members of various committees from both branches of government.

Two years after it was launched, PhilHealth started tapping media practitioners from various provinces to help in promoting and advocating the significance of having social health insurance coverage.
The UHC Forum 2015 recently gathered PhilHealth and its public and private sector counterparts from Indonesia and Vietnam to share their best practices, experiences and insights, and learn lessons from each country’s experiences in their journey towards the attainment of universal health care.

Now on its fourth year, the UHC Forum is a series of annual multi-stakeholder policy fora conceptualized and organized by the PhilHealth, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health and Novartis. This is co-organized by Universitas Indonesia School of Public Health and supported by the Social Security Organizing Body, the lead UHC implementor of Indonesia and the Vietnam Ministry of Health.

UHC Forum 2015 was divided into four (4) sessions tackling specific questions such as: are citizens getting covered? Is the health system providing better packages for citizens? Are citizens availing of the packages? How can citizens benefit more?

Dr. Sedfrey Candelaria, Dean of Ateneo de Manila Law School said during the opening plenary that “we are talking about people having access to clinical health programs not only for the public sector but for the private sector as well. To ensure access to health care, increase the number of accredited facilities and make PhilHealth easy to access.”

PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Alexander A. Padilla reported on PhilHealth’s Scorecard, emphasizing that the essence of financial health care is financial risk protection through expansion in the enrollment and benefit delivery of the National Health Insurance Program. PhilHealth is poised to improve its primary health care package to include medicines. As of now, medicines comprise a big chunk of reimbursements from PhilHealth and one of the possible solutions is the strict enforcement of the No Balance Billing policy and the fixed co-pay as a means to reduce out-of-pocket expenditures.

Pediatric care is still being studied. One of the demands from PhilHealth is the creation of the PhilHealth Plus program which provides more benefits but members need to pay a higher premium.

Padilla expressed that “Universal Health Care is the call and commitment of the Philippine Government to ensure that every Filipino has access to quality and affordable health care through PhilHealth. UHC is not that easy but is achievable. We are in the right direction; PhilHealth shall continually increase its benefits and lessen members’ out-of-pocket expenses.”
PhilHealth Joins 1st ASEAN Civil Service Games

By Dianna Marie S. Chua

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) recently joined the first ASEAN Civil Service Games (ACSG) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Also comprising the Philippine team were players from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Civil Service Commission, Philippine Sports Commission, the Government Corporations Athletic Association, Landbank of the Philippines, Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corporation, Manila International Airport Authority, and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority.

“PhilHealth supports our country by all means. Providing financial risk protection for all Filipinos is our main goal but we also encourage our employees to be athletes and engage in a friendly competition against other countries,” said PhilHealth President and CEO Alexander A. Padilla.

The ASEAN Civil Service Games is a multi-sport event for the public servants of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-states. It features five different sports, namely futsal, table tennis, badminton, tenpin bowling and golf. The event was proposed by Malaysia during its Chairmanship of the ASEAN this year.

Some 550 public servants from 10 ASEAN countries participated in the event which was organized by the Malaysia Civil Service Sports Council in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other relevant ministries and agencies.

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The Philippines received a bronze medal in the men’s division and gold medal in the VIP category of tenpin bowling, which made the Filipino public servants even prouder.

“We may come from different government agencies that provide service to our fellow countrymen, but when it comes to defending and making our country stand out, the perspective became one,” said Atty. Lora L. Mangasar, PhilHealth GCAA Sports Coordinator.

NEW BENEFITS

New Z Benefit Packages for Colon and Rectum Cancers

By Emelita M. Retuta

To achieve better health outcomes for patients with colon and rectum cancers, PhilHealth has announced its coverage rates for both diseases.

Through the Z Benefit Package, expenses for the treatment and management of colon and rectum cancers are now covered for members who pass the selections criteria. These are based on current standards validated by experts in colon and rectum cancers and are adopted by PhilHealth during benefits development.

The Z package rate for the entire course of treatment of colon cancer, Stages I to II (low risk) is P 150,000.00, while package rate for Stages II (high risk) to III is P 300,000.00.

PhilHealth will also pay P400,000.00 for pre-operative clinical stage I, but with post-operative pathologic Stages II-III using linear accelerator as mode of radiotherapy. Coverage for the same stages but using cobalt as mode of radiotherapy is P320,000.00.

Rectum cancer with clinical stages II-III, using linear accelerator as mode of radiotherapy is also covered at P400,000.00, and using cobalt as mode of radiotherapy is covered at P 320,000.00.

These benefit packages will be made available in contracted public and private health care institutions soon.
Online Premium Remittance for Employers Now Available

By Faudia H. Subillaga

Employers in the private and government sectors may now remit their premium contributions electronically through the Electronic Premium Remittance System (EPRS) version 3.1, a facility that was upgraded from being a premium reporting mechanism to one that will now enable employers to remit premium contributions online.

The new EPRS will also enable employers to enjoy prompt acknowledgement of premium payments and immediate posting of their premium contributions.

Through the new EPRS, the process of premium remittance and reporting has been reduced from six (6) to three (3) steps, namely, updating of employees’ remittance status; generation of Statement of Premium Account (SPA); and selection of ACA to remit premium contributions online.

Once the online payment succeeds, the employer will receive an electronic PhilHealth Acknowledgement Receipt or ePAR. It will be reflected in the employer’s EPRS account and shall serve as the employer’s proof of premium payment.
Hacking, phishing, virus, Trojan horses, malware – these are information security threats that are proliferating, putting not only personal but also company assets at risk.

As the implementer of the National Health Insurance Program and the custodian of significant personal information of members, dependents, medical institutions and practitioners as well as of employers, PhilHealth is vulnerable to information security risk.

Circular 29, series of 2015 was issued to inform members of PhilHealth’s commitment to ensure and safeguard all their personal information, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Let’s list down what this Circular articulates.

- PhilHealth’s stakeholders, which include Health Care Institutions and Health Care Professionals; Consultants; IT Specialists, Individuals, Academic institutions, Government agencies, Non-government organizations, International bodies and development organizations, Private entities or corporations and Vendors, suppliers, solutions providers, Private-Public partners are also required to sign the NDA.
- No person is allowed to gather information on behalf of PhilHealth unless the collection is expressly authorized by an issuance, used for the purpose of law enforcement or necessary to the administration of a lawfully authorized activity.
- A member’s consent is needed before PhilHealth releases any personal information to an authorized representative.
- Members are also requested to inform PhilHealth in case of any inaccuracies in their personal information like misspelled names and incorrect dates of birth, as well as changes in their personal information like change in civil status and membership category.

Sanctions and penalties for violations or non-compliance to this Circular shall include disciplinary actions pursuant to Sec. 22(x) Rule XIV of the Omnibus Rules; Implementing Book V of E.O. 292 otherwise known as the “Administrative Code of 1987”, Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service; Data Privacy Act of 2012; Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012; and other applicable laws.

By Pinky G. Aragones
For 2015 alone, a total of 763 Local Chief Executives and staff, 201 media personalities in seven (7) PhilHealth Regional Offices have been oriented on the National Health Insurance Program through the Social Health Insurance Education Series (SHInES).

The concept of PhilHealth SHInES came about as a response to the call for universal health care coverage. Through SHInES, all sectors are provided with the knowledge and understanding of social health insurance. It also strengthened PhilHealth’s ties with LCEs and encouraged media to dispatch more accurate information on the NHIP.

With pride, we look back at what we have accomplished. While it is the work to be done that must command attention, our challenge is to make the most out of the opportunity to educate our clientele and make the SHInES work even better. We will continue to focus on our vision, stand by our members and do what is right for them. Soon, PhilHealth will bring SHInES to other sectors of society such as the academe.

In this spread, we feature glimpses from the different SHInES sessions spearheaded by the Social Health Insurance Academy (SHIA), held in Laguna, Zamboanga, Cebu, Butuan, Naga City, National Capital Region and Baguio City.
P-CARES render a traditional dance during a break.

Representatives from the academe, media and other government agencies attended the Baguio edition.

With the multi-sectoral participants to the SHInES in CARAGA.

Mayor Materno Luspian of Mankayan, Benguet shares his community’s best practices during the SHInES in Baguio.

Agusan del Norte Governor Ma. Angela Rosedell Amante-Matba receives a 20th Anniversary commemorative medal from PCEO Padilla.

Information officers of government agencies also attended the Cebu edition.

LCE participants from Cebu with some PhilHealth officers and staff.

Thumbs up sign for the success of SHInES for Media and LCEs in Laguna.

Participants from SHInES in Laguna.

SHInES participants from PRO IX with PhilHealth officers.

Part of the audience that attended the SHInES in Zamboanga.
PhilHealth sa Healthline.
Ka-tandem n'yo sa kalusugan.
Miyrkules, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Radyo 5, 92.3 News FM
Kasama sina Dr. Ish Pargas at Ms. Cheryl Cosim

PhilHealth sa 990
Huwebes, ika-2 ng hapon
DZIQ 990 KHz-AM
Kasama sina Dr. Ish Pargas at Ms. Arlyn de la Cruz

Sundan ang PhilHealth sa DZRH!
Makinig. Maging informed at empowered member.

Dear PhilHealth
Miyrkules, 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.
DZR H 666 KHz-AM
Kasama sina Dr. Ish Pargas at Ms. Milky Rigonan

Usapang PhilHealth sa Doctor’s Orders
Martes, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
DWVV 774 KHz-AM
Kasama sina Dr. Ish Pargas,
Dr. Jimmy Tan at Nathalie David, RN

PhilHealth Hataw sa Serbisyo
Huwebes, 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
DWIZ 882 KHz-AM
Kasama sina Dr. Ish Pargas at Ms. Ruth Abao