

**True survivor:**

# Dialysis patient wins battle against CoViD-19

**L**IFE truly matters. For a 25-year old man who yearns for nothing but the best for his family and friends, giving importance to and protecting life is in itself his life's work.

Diagnosed with Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in 2017, it did not become a hindrance for Raymond Santos to keep going and survive the trials brought about by each passing day. In spite of his dialysis sessions every week, he is always full of energy fulfilling his career as HR Specialist in a leading Business Process Outsourcing company in Pasig City.

Raymond's busy round-the-clock routine was suddenly marred in mid-March when he started experiencing those fearful symptoms of the dreaded CoViD-19. He had fever for three days and found out he had pneumonia.

The worrying didn't stop there. Tagged as Person Under Investigation (PUI), he was soon denied of the services by his dialysis center and ten other hospitals. On March 25, he was confirmed CoViD-19 positive by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

He began to suffer from severe pain since he can no longer go for dialysis for more than a week. Intermittent fever, persistent cough, vomiting and nausea further weakened his immune system. He was then rushed to The Medical City by his friends where he stayed for 55 days. Raymond was isolated in a private room, and underwent dialysis sessions while being treated for the novel corona virus.

"Nuong ma-confine ako ay kinailangan ko ding mag-dialysis. Naisip ko... 'sasagutin pa rin kaya ito ng PhilHealth?" Raymond said



This bubbly, down-to-earth guy who is a real fighter hung on to God with his faith while support from his family, friends and officemates outpoured which strengthened his resolve to go on. After six consecutive swab tests of consistent positive results, his seventh test turned negative.

It was a long hard battle for Raymond, which according to him was made bearable and sweet because he was assured of full financial protection from PhilHealth.

"Napakalaki po talaga ng naitulong ng PhilHealth sa amin. Noong ma-discharge ako, ang sabi nila sa akin... "Sir, wala na po kayong babayaran kahit piso. Sagot na po ng PhilHealth lahat." Raymond could not believe the news himself. "Sobrang mahal ng mga gamot ko, at sinagot ito lahat ng PhilHealth. Sobrang thankful talaga kami ng family ko sa PhilHealth!"

As Raymond recounts how he succeeded in this latest battle of his, he can't help but be assured that there is always light after darkness. For this he said "life is truly worth living for". (END)

Reference: Dr. Shirley B. Domingo, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Official Spokesperson | Mobile No: 09171360964