

By Bong Diga, Local Health Insurance Office - Pasig

he Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) recently awarded the Pasig City Health Office its Certification of Accreditation, making it the first accredited provider of Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta) in the National Capital Region.

Some 20,000 Pasigueños stand to benefit from the said partnership that will make available primary care services that are paid for under the Konsulta package which include initial and follow-up consultations, and targeted health risk screening and assessment.

Depending on the health condition of the beneficiaries and as assessed by the primary care professional, Konsulta also provides laboratory tests such as urinalysis, complete blood count (CBC), chest X-ray, electrocardiogram (ECG), among others. The package also include a wide range of medicines which include anti-asthma, anti-diabetic and anti-hypertensive medicines, among others.

The Konsulta package aims to provide all Filipinos with basic essential services at every life stage. It also aims to help in promoting health, identifying risks, and ensuring early diagnosis and detection of conditions to prevent these from worsening and leading to costly treatments.

Explaining the impact of the partnership to the City's health services, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto said that "This is an important step towards the implementation of Universal Health Care. This aims to provide better primary health care services (health centers/clinics), which will also help in decongesting our hospitals,"

The awarding of Certificate of Accreditation is a result of Mayor Sotto's commitment he made during the City's 448<sup>th</sup> Araw ng Pasig celebration in July this year. The City's Health Department have since worked on completing facility and documentary requirements that eventually led to their Konsulta accreditation, which is a historic first in Metro Manila.

The said local government unit is looking to expand the availability of Konsulta to its 42 health centers in 30 barangays in the city.

In photo (L-R) are Dr. Emma Ruth Cuevas, Assistant City Health Officer; Dr. Raul Tuquero, PhilHealth NCR South Branch Manager; Mayor Vico Sotto; Dr. Katrina Marie Aguilar, Head of Benefit Administration Section of NCR-South; and Roman Balgomera, Chief Social Insurance Officer of PhilHealth Local Health Insurance Office-Pasig. ###

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