



PhilHealth Konsulta campaign intensifies in Central Visayas

by Kate Trangia, Public Affairs Unit, PRO 7

The state health insurer's campaign on Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama, better known as PhilHealth Konsulta, has intensified in Central Visayas as the Regional Office strived to accredit more providers in different localities in the region.

As an initial step towards adopting a comprehensive approach to delivering primary care as prescribed under the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) commits to making essential outpatient services such as consultations, health screening and assessment, laboratory tests, and medicines available to all Filipinos.

In promoting this cause, PhilHealth Regional Office (PRO) 7's Accreditation and Quality Assurance Team along with the Local Health Insurance Offices (LHIO) have facilitated a series of dialogues, focus-group discussions, and courtesy calls with local chief executives and health care providers for greater collaboration.



Prospective partners from the urban to rural areas in the islands were highly regarded for their crucial role in the delivery of health care. They were given orientations about the benefit package and accreditation guidelines virtually during the height of the pandemic, and through face-to-face meetings as the alert levels were downgraded.



Following the Konsulta orientation, PRO 7's Accreditation Team, Membership Section, and LHIO Danao facilitate a focus-group discussion with the hospitals and RHUs in Northern Cebu to maximize its reach.



RVP Cabrieto awarded the certificates of appreciation to outgoing Cebu Provincial Health Officer Dr. Cristina Giango and several Provincial Hospital Chiefs, as they signified their full support to the program.

The Konsulta benefit package may be availed of by PhilHealth members and their declared legal dependents in their accredited facility of choice, the registration may be processed through the nearest PhilHealth LHIO or through self-registration via PhilHealth Member Portal which can be accessed at www.philhealth.gov.ph.

“As [a partner] agency of the DOH, it is our commitment to implement successfully the Konsulta Package. So far, we’re fortunate that the reception of hospital chiefs, doctors, and nurses [is] proactive. I hope makuha na namon ang inyong (we can get your) support to successfully implement the Konsulta Package in your respective areas,” says Regional Vice President Marjorie A. Cabrieto during a discussion with health facilities under the jurisdiction of LHIO Carcar City.

The Konsulta program is a transitory phase in moving forward to the comprehensive primary care benefit package. It is an opening door developed through the ‘bayanihan’ spirit characterized by the National Health Insurance Program and the progressive realization of UHC in addressing the nation’s health needs.

PhilHealth 7’s Accreditation and Quality Assurance Section, headed by its chief Dr. Maria Eliza Batucan, in close coordination with the LHIOs, is also continuously encouraging and inviting both private and government health facilities to apply as Konsulta providers.

Among the minimum requirements for accreditation in terms of service capability include the ability to conduct preventive/ screening services and health education,



PRO7 chiefs hand a certificate of appreciation to Carmel Matus of Radyo Pilipinas – Cebu during the “Kapihan with Media,” for being a partner in promoting the cause of NHIP, among other media outlets.

capability of providing services for required laboratory and radiologic services, and capability to dispense required medicines, as indicated in PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0021.

With only one Konsulta provider last year, Central Visayas has accredited a total of 30 accredited providers from both private and government-run health facilities as of July 1, 2022. Several more facilities are still in the process of completing their application.

In June this year, the Regional Office even organized a “Kapihan with Media” to boost the promotion of PhilHealth’s new programs and services, all while recognizing the media’s important role in disseminating information to the public. The event also shed light on the state insurer’s mandate and policies amid the latest changes introduced to the public. ###