



ITRMC thanks PhilHealth; commends the implementation of ACPS

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The only 306-bed facility in the Ilocos Region, Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC) in San Fernando City, La Union, is catering to patients from all over Region I and nearby provinces of the Cordillera Region. With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the influx of patients, Dr. Eduardo M. Badua III, Medical Center Chief, admits that ITRMC cannot do it alone without the help from the government. This is the very reason why he is very thankful for the strong engagement and partnership with

PhilHealth. The financial support, through claims reimbursements, is helping ITRMC to remain strong and committed to their mandate of delivering patient care in the best way they can even as they invest in state-of-the-art medical equipment and better facilities that are also gender-responsive.

"ITRM's mandate is to give the best possible health care to Filipinos while PhilHealth provides the financial support that we need for us to carry out our mandate", said Badua of the good partnership between ITRMC and PhilHealth over the years.

He revealed that 70% to 80% of ITRMC's revenue comes from PhilHealth reimbursements. These reimbursements are being received weekly by ITRMC through PhilHealth's Auto-Credit Payment Scheme (ACPS). ACPS, which was launched in 2017 to improve claims processing efficiency, is a mechanism whereby payments of the claims of health care institutions are credited directly through their designated deposit accounts on a weekly basis. Dr. Badua said that ACPS helps a lot with their budgeting as they can clearly project their cash flow and properly allocate it in the coming weeks and months. Receiving substantial amounts regularly helps ITRMC expand its services, procure the necessary supplies and medicines, and hire Contract of Service workers to help them in managing patients.

PhilHealth reimbursements also help ITRMC in their capital expenditures particularly for their infrastructure and equipment build-up to further improve the services they offer to their patients. He also added that the weekly funds coming from PhilHealth but also help in maintaining good credit rating with their suppliers.

With regard to the implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, Dr. Badua admits that the challenge is enormous as they are the only apex hospital in their local Health Care Provider Network. An apex hospital is an end-referral hospital offering specialized services and is contracted as a stand-alone facility by the PhilHealth. The expansion of ITRMC from a 306-bed health facility in 1997 to an 800-bed facility by virtue of RA 11724 aims to accommodate all patients from Region I and other nearby provinces.

Opening of satellite offices strategically located in the province of La Union to bring quality health care closer to the people is now in the pipeline. Relying on their Maintenance and



Other Operating Expenses has its limits, therefore, the reimbursements from PhilHealth claims can provide enough for their much-needed expansion. Nevertheless, they are ready for the challenges especially in the implementation of Konsulta Program, as they have already established ITRMC's Center for Public Health and Primary Health Care to help in early detection and prevention of certain lifestyle diseases.

With the ongoing pandemic and the challenges of UHC, Dr. Badua acknowledges the fact the ITRMC needs their partners; they need PhilHealth and their stakeholders to ensure the over-all good health of all Filipinos.