

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4391**



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO INCREASE THE PACKAGE RATE FOR DIALYSIS TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS PER YEAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on the Department of Health data, renal disease is among the top ten (10) causes of death among Filipinos where seven thousand patients die each year due to kidney malfunction. At least 120,000 cases of kidney failures occur each year and about 60% of patients with chronic kidney failure are service patients.

Presently, the steep cost of hemodialysis has pushed marginalized patients to beg around for assistance in order to pay for their treatment. On August 27, 2015, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) issued Circular No. 024-2015, which increased the dialysis sessions covered from 45 to 90 sessions per year and pegged hemodialysis expense to Php2,600 per session. The new cost is Php1,400 less from the previous Php4,000 per session.

Circular No. 024-2015 maintained the regular benefit limit of forty five (45) days for the principal member and another forty five (45) days shared by all qualified dependents per calendar year. In other words, it provided for a sharing arrangement for the principal member and one (1) dependent, in case they are both undergoing dialysis, for the maximum of 90 sessions only.

Likewise, the new package removed the injection of *epoetin alfa* or *beta* that was previously included in the old case rate for dialysis. Hence, increasing the out-of-the-pocket expenses of patients in the form of co-pay mechanisms, injections and laboratory procedures.

For these reasons, this bill seeks to mandate PhilHealth to increase its package rate for dialysis treatment to Php315,000 covering a maximum of ninety sessions per year for each of the principal and dependent member in order to adequately provide for their dialysis treatment.

It is hoped that with the passage of this measure into law, the financial burden of patients will be alleviated and the pressing problem of renal diseases in the country will be addressed.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall increase the package rate for dialysis treatment of the principal member and each of his/her qualified dependent to three hundred fifteen thousand pesos (Php315,000.00) covering ninety (90) sessions per year. The case rate amount shall be exclusive of hospital charges and professional fees of attending physician.

SEC. 2. Hospitals, dialysis centers and other health facilities shall comply with the safety and quality standards of dialysis services, which shall be strictly monitored by the PhilHealth and the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 3. Private and public hospitals, dialysis centers and other health facilities shall be mandated to report incidence and prevalence of renal diseases to the Philippine Renal Disease Registry of the DOH as a requirement for the renewal of their DOH licenses to operate or their initial application for a license to operate a hemodialysis center or unit.

SEC. 4. The DOH, shall, after due process, determine the appropriate administrative sanctions to be meted out to hospitals, dialysis centers and health facilities which are found to have violated Sections 2 and 3 of this Act.

SEC. 5. A periodic assessment and reasonable adjustments of the benefit package for dialysis patients shall be made by the PhilHealth after taking into consideration its financial capability and changes in the socioeconomic conditions of the country.

SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the PhilHealth shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Health, issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,