

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1942



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A STANDARD OF CARE AND TREATMENT CENTERS
FOR PERSONS WITH BLEEDING DISORDERS, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, statistics have shown that around ten thousand (10,000) Filipinos are estimated to have hemophilia, while the prevalence of Von Willebrand Disease and other bleeding disorders is estimated to be 1% of the population or about 1,000,000 Filipinos. However, only about 1,500 are registered with the Philippine Hemophilia Foundation and about 20 people with Von Willebrand Disease are registered in the Philippines.

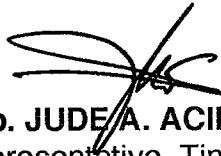
Bleeding disorders are a group of conditions that result when the blood cannot clot properly. Spontaneous bleeding can be life-threatening, especially when it occurs to a vital organ as it can cause permanent damage. Medical practitioners and scientists haven't found a cure for this condition. However, this can be properly managed by getting regular and proper treatments.

Hence, this bill seeks to establish a standard of care and mandate the establishment of hemophilia treatment facilities in key cities and regions nationwide in designated hospitals with Cancer and Hematology Departments to provide patients with better access to appropriate and quality treatment. The measure ensures the adequate treatment of hemophilia and other bleeding disorders at the lowest possible cost and to provide it for free to indigent patients.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Bleeding Disorder Standards of Care Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the adequate treatment of hemophilia at the lowest possible cost and endeavor to make them available for free to indigent patients, to ensure the establishment of treatment centers in public hospitals and to establish a standard of care so that patients with severe bleeding disorders can receive necessary and appropriate medical care.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act, the terms:

- (a) “*Bleeding Disorder*” shall refer to a medical condition characterized by a severe deficiency or absence of one or more essential blood clotting proteins in the human blood, often called factors, including

all forms of hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and other bleeding disorders which result in uncontrolled bleeding or abnormal blood clotting;

(b) "*Blood Clotting product*" shall mean an intravenously administered medicine manufactured from human plasma, recombinant biotechnology techniques and other processes, approved for distribution by the BFAD and which is used for the treatment and prevention of symptoms associated with bleeding disorders. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Factor VIIa, Factor VIII and Factor IX products;
- (2) Von Willebrand Factor products;
- (3) Prothrombin complex concentrates;
- (4) Activated prothrombin complex concentrates; and
- (5) Other products approved by the BFAD for the treatment of bleeding disorders and associated inhibitors.

(c) "*Indigent Patient*" shall mean any patient deemed unable to pay for services or medical treatment, laboratory testing of blood and/or coagulation studies, or blood coagulating product and/or ancillary infusion equipment;

(d) "*DOH*" shall refer to the Department of Health;

(e) "*BFAD*" shall refer to the Bureau of Food and Drugs;

(f) "*Hemophilia*" shall refer to a human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary deficiency of the Factor VIII, Factor XI or Factor XI blood clotting protein in human blood; and

(g) "*von Willebrand disease*" shall refer to a human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary deficiency or abnormality of the von Willebrand Factor in human blood;

Section 4. *State Treatment Facilities.* – The State shall establish hemophilia treatment facilities in key cities and regions nationwide in designated hospitals with Cancer and Hematology Departments.

Each Hemophilia Treatment Facility shall provide to all hemophilia patients:

- (a) Care by qualified hematologists and medical doctors and shall also provide, free of charge, the necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products;
- (b) A room exclusively for hemophilia patients; and,
- (c) A clinical coagulation laboratory for the screening, diagnosis, provisional diagnosis, and treatment of bleeding disorders or suspected bleeding disorders and such services shall be provided free of charge to all indigent patients.

Section 5. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the Department of Health. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act in the ensuing years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

The treatment facilities are allowed to use five percent (5%) of the amount given to it for the maintenance of the rooms that will be used exclusively for hemophilia patients. However, ninety percent (90%) of the amount shall be used exclusively for necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products to hemophilia patients. The remaining five percent (5%) shall be used for blood screening of hemophilia patients.

Each treatment facility shall submit an annual report to the DOH on how the amount given to it is used.

Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) shall, in

consultation with hemophilia groups, promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,