

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2647



Introduced by Rep. Anthony R. T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dialysis is one of the most common medical treatment among Filipinos. However, despite how common it is among our countrymen, hemodialysis treatment is one of the treatments that are a true burden to those who cannot maintain the constant, lifetime treatment schedule.

At the onset of the pandemic, those who needed the treatment had to risk getting in contact with those who were positive in order to survive their life-long ordeal. A lot of Filipinos who needed the procedure could only get it at the hospitals during the pandemic. As such, nephrologists would concur that there is a correlation between COVID-19 and kidney failure resulting to deaths during the height of the pandemic.¹ Even the largest kidney center in the country, the National Kidney Transplant Institute, had to plead for relief as they were overwhelmed by the number of COVID-19 patients as they could not handle a mix of both COVID-positive patients and the other Filipinos who have nowhere else to go for their dialysis treatments.²

It has been apparent during the pandemic that dialysis treatment is much needed among Filipinos today. A bulk of Filipinos requesting for medical assistance are actually those who have to constantly undergo dialysis treatments for the rest of their lives. This representation would like to therefore request for there to be a free hemodialysis treatment for our senior citizens and those who are truly in need of medical assistance for the aforementioned treatment.

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

HON. ANTHONY R. T. GOLEZ JR. MD, MBAH
Malasakit at Bayanihan Party List

¹ <https://www.kireports.org/action/showPdf?pii=S2468-0249%2821%2901342-5>

² <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/20/nkti-seeks-relief-from-covid-19-overcapacity>

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Free Dialysis Act of 2022.*”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – It is the declared policy of the State to make available essential goods, health and other social services at affordable cost to all Filipinos. Pursuant to this, the State shall continuously improve the delivery of health services and hospital facilities to make those accessible to all.

Sec. 3. *Comprehensive Dialysis Benefit Package.* – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth, in consultation with the Health Technology Assessment Council, shall develop a comprehensive dialysis benefit package available to all senior citizens and patients who are considered indigent which shall fully cover all costs of hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis treatments, sessions and procedures done in PhilHealth accredited-health facilities. There shall be no co-payment for dialysis treatments, sessions and procedures of all senior citizens and patients who are considered indigent.

A patient can be considered indigent if he/she has no visible means of income, or his/her income is insufficient for the subsistence of his/her family, as assessed by

the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government social worker or the medical social worker of the health facility.

Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the total revenue of PhilHealth, composed of premium contributions from direct contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors.

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impact any other part of this Act.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — Any provision of laws, orders, agreements, rules or regulations contrary to and inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,