

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 7841



---

**Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, and  
EDVIC G. YAP**

---

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

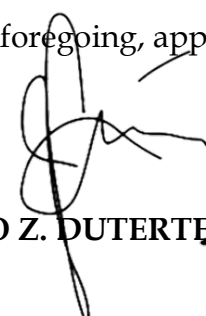
The National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) reiterates that Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5 (CKD 5) has been identified as the seventh leading cause of death in the country, with 120 per million Filipinos acquiring the said disease in a year. Meanwhile, the latest estimates show that around 2.3 million Filipinos have chronic kidney disease and that in 2016 alone, 36,000 were in a dialysis treatment—showcasing a 15% increase in the number of patients within just a year.

Even at the alarming rate of chronic kidney disease cases, the cost of medical treatment for kidney disease remains exorbitant—beyond the reach of ordinary patients. CKD 5 can be treated with kidney transplantation or renal dialysis, however, while kidney transplant is a definitive treatment, the low levels of organ donations, lack of infrastructure, and high cost of transplantation makes dialysis as the most viable option for renal patients in the Philippines.

Notwithstanding the recent upgrade of the PhilHealth coverage for hemodialysis outpatient granting a maximum of 144 sessions per calendar year, the said coverage still does not surmount to the actual number of dialysis needed by the patients, given how dreadful the chronic kidney disease is.

As a response, this bill seeks to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals immediately two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, thereby increasing access to dialysis sessions, especially to the indigent patients in every region of the country.

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



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE



ERIC G. YAP



EDVIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. **7841**

---

**Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, and  
EDVIC G. YAP**

---

**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL**  
**GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A**  
**DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND**  
**PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This act shall be known as the “Dialysis Center Act.”

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people.

**SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *National Government Hospital* - refers hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- b. *Regional Government Hospital* - refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- c. *Provincial Government Hospital* - refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or other political subdivision, or by any department division, board or other agency thereof; and
- d. *Indigent Patient* - refers to patient who has no visible means of income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

**SEC. 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.*** - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospital. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

**SEC. 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.*** - Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (d) hereof.

**SEC. 6. *Penalty.*** - Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

**SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary of DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** - Such amount as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.

**SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,