

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
House Bill No. **2058**



Introduced by **Rep. Robert Nazal**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dialysis continues to be an essential medical service in the Philippines, particularly in light of the rising incidence of chronic kidney disease (CKD). It is estimated that every hour, one Filipino becomes increasingly susceptible to chronic renal failure.^{1 2} Dialysis serves a critical role in assisting the kidneys in eliminating harmful substances from the body, thereby supporting overall health.³ However, despite its importance, many Filipinos are still unable to fully access the benefits of dialysis due to various barriers in the healthcare system that impede progress and equitable service delivery.

Considering the existing gaps and challenges in the treatment of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), various initiatives have been undertaken to align with the provisions of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law of 2019. These efforts are supported by ongoing advancements in medical science and healthcare service delivery.

The State shall uphold the provision of quality healthcare to all citizens, recognizing it as a fundamental human right. This bill affirms the government's commitment to delivering equitable healthcare services without imposing financial burdens that may further impoverish indigent patients. The inclusion of free dialysis with adequate facilities and materials ensures broader accessibility to essential medical care, thereby reducing barriers to healthcare access and promoting the well-being of all, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of society.


Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

¹ Pajimna JAT, Orpilla GAL, Milan MJDC, Virtucio CTS, Pamatian JVM. Gaps and challenges in the provision of treatment for patients with end-stage renal disease: perspectives from the Philippines. *Lancet Reg Health West Pac*. 2023 Aug 31;38:100889. doi: 10.1016/j.lanwpc.2023.100889. PMID: 37790082; PMCID: PMC10544423.

² Philippine Society Of Nephrology Editors. (1 March 2024). Rising Incidence Of Chronic Kidney Disease In The Philippines Sparks Call For Kidney Health Awareness Subtitle: The Philippine Society Of Nephrology Urges Filipinos To Take Proactive Measures. <https://psn.org.ph/2024/03/01/rising-incidence-of-chronic-kidney-disease-in-the-philippines-sparks-call-for-kidney-health-awareness-subtitle-the-philippine-society-of-nephrology-urges-filipinos-to-take-proactive-measures/>

³ NKF Patient Education Team. (2 January 2023). Dialysis. <https://www.kidney.org/kidney-topics/dialysis>

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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”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable, and accessible to the people.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.

For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- A. “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- B. “National 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. “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;
- D. “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;

- E. "Indigent Patient" refers to a 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)

SECTION 4. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Prevention and Health Promotion.

All national, regional, and provincial government hospitals, and stand-alone dialysis facilities shall establish CKD prevention strategies and health promotion activities which shall include advocacy activities targeting relatives of dialysis patients who are at high risk in developing CKD themselves, the provision of instructional material on the common symptoms of kidney disease and regular conduct of educational activities such as healthy diet and lifestyle, utilization of regular tests to diagnose kidney disease, information on the most common causes of kidney failure, and advisories on the appropriate protocols for the diagnostic evaluation of possible kidney disease.

Patients and their relatives shall be informed on the availability of the proper medicines from government health centers such as those for diabetes and hypertension, and the importance of the regular intake of medicines and monitoring of kidney function through regular laboratory testing and check-up by a qualified physician. All activities pertaining to the aforementioned programs shall be documented accordingly.

SECTION 5. 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.

This dialysis ward or unit shall be an integral part of the hospital's inpatient and outpatient services and must be equipped with a sufficient number of dialysis machines, as well as the requisite medical equipment, consumables, and supplies necessary to provide safe, effective, and quality hemodialysis treatment. The number of machines and staffing requirements shall be proportionate to the hospital's authorized bed capacity, average patient volume, and service catchment area, subject to minimum standards as may be prescribed by the DOH.

SECTION 6. Quality Standards of Dialysis Services.

Hospitals and dialysis centers shall comply with safety and quality standards of dialysis or transplant services.

The Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) of the Department of Health shall be responsible for the regulation, licensing, and monitoring of facility

compliance, while the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall oversee compliance with benefit standards and service delivery as a condition for accreditation and reimbursement.

SECTION 7. Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.

Dialysis treatment in all national, regional, and provincial government hospital shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (e) hereof.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. 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.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause.

If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.

All law, presidential decrees or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity.

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

Approved,