

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9008



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**Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM**  
**TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF CARE, IMPROVE MEDICAL EFFICIENCY,**  
**AND PROMOTE UNIVERSAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL FILIPINOS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the frantic halls of a Philippine public hospital, time is the only currency that truly matters. Yet, for decades, that currency has been squandered on the mundane: the frantic search for a misplaced manila folder, the repetitive filling out of tattered forms, and the dangerous guesswork that occurs when a patient arrives unconscious without a medical history.

The “One Patient - One Health Record Act of 2026” serves not merely as a piece of legislation, but as a digital lifeline—a long-overdue evolution of the Philippine healthcare system into the 21st century. By institutionalizing the National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS), this Act bridges the gap between fragmented care and a unified, healthy nation.

For the patient, the impact is deeply personal and potentially life-saving. Under this Act, every Filipino is granted a Digital Health ID, ensuring that their medical story follows them, whether they are in a remote barangay health station in Batanes or a specialized center in Metro Manila. No longer will a patient need to remember the exact dosage of a medication prescribed three years ago or undergo the same expensive diagnostic tests simply because the previous results are locked in a different hospital’s filing cabinet.

For relatives and caretakers, the burden of being a walking encyclopedia of a loved one’s history is lifted. They gain the peace of mind that comes with knowing that in an emergency, the attending physician has immediate access to critical data—allergies, blood types, and pre-existing conditions—reducing the risk of medical errors and the emotional exhaustion of navigating a disjointed system.

The medical community stands to gain a powerful diagnostic ally. For doctors and healthcare providers, the NEHRS eliminates the information silos that hinder effective treatment. Access to a comprehensive, interoperable medical history allows for more accurate diagnoses and better-informed clinical decisions. Hospitals and clinics, meanwhile, see a drastic improvement in operational efficiency. By digitizing records, facilities can reduce administrative overhead, streamline the patient flow, and focus their resources on actual care rather than paper management. Furthermore, the integration with PhilHealth ensures that the financial side of healing is as seamless as the clinical side, minimizing the bureaucratic hurdles that often delay discharge and payment.

On a macro level, the government gains a bird's-eye view of the nation's health. With real-time data, the Department of Health (DOH) can monitor disease outbreaks with surgical precision, manage medical supplies more effectively, and craft public health policies based on hard evidence rather than estimates.

This is the cornerstone of Universal Health Care; it transforms health from a series of isolated events into a continuous, data-driven journey. In a country like the Philippines, where geographic barriers and socio-economic disparities often dictate the quality of care, this Act acts as a great equalizer, ensuring that the poorest Filipino has the same digital identity and continuity of care as the wealthiest.

The Philippines is not venturing into the unknown; it is joining a global movement toward digital health sovereignty. Nations like Estonia have set the gold standard, where nearly 99% of health data is digitized, allowing citizens to view their own records and doctors to provide seamless care nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

Similarly, Singapore's National Electronic Health Record (NEHR) system has been instrumental in its status as a global leader in medical efficiency, enabling "One Patient, One Health Record" across its entire ecosystem.

By adopting this model, the Philippines signals its readiness to compete on the global stage, ensuring that its healthcare infrastructure is robust, secure, and, most importantly, human-centric.

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

  
**HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://e-estonia.com/wp-content/uploads/factsheet\\_e-health.pdf](https://e-estonia.com/wp-content/uploads/factsheet_e-health.pdf)

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**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the ***“One Patient - One Health Record Act of 2025.”***

**SECTION 2.** It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino. To this end, the government shall institutionalize a secure, interoperable, and universally accessible Electronic Health Record (EHR) system that ensures efficient, seamless, and continuous healthcare services nationwide.

**SECTION 3.** This Act seeks to:

- a. Create a National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) for all citizens;
- b. Assign every Filipino a unique digital health ID linked to their medical history;
- c. Facilitate data sharing among authorized healthcare providers;
- d. Enhance healthcare delivery, reduce redundancy, and save lives during emergencies;
- e. Support public health monitoring, disease surveillance, and national health planning.

**SECTION 4.** The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop and implement the NEHRS.

The system shall include:

- a. Individual patient profiles including medical history, lab results, prescriptions, allergies, and immunizations;
- b. Access protocols for public and private health facilities, governed by data privacy and patient consent;
- c. Offline access mechanisms for rural and underserved areas;
- d. Integration with PhilHealth, Universal Health Care databases, and local government unit (LGU) health systems.

**SECTION 5.** Every Filipino shall be assigned a Digital Health ID, which shall be:

- a. Linked to their PhilSys (National ID) number or issued separately if unavailable;
- b. Usable across all public hospitals, RHUs, and licensed private facilities;
- c. Securely stored with biometric or multi-factor authentication features for access.

**SECTION 6.** The following shall be required to adopt the NEHRS within two (2) years:

- a. All DOH-retained hospitals and provincial hospitals;
- b. All public rural health units (RHUs), barangay health stations, and city health offices;
- c. All state universities and colleges (SUCs) offering medical and health courses;
- d. Private hospitals and clinics may participate voluntarily within the first year and shall be mandated to adopt the system by the third year, with incentives provided for early adoption.

**SECTION 7.** Strict compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173) shall be enforced.

- a. Patients must provide informed consent for access to their records.
- b. All data shall be encrypted and stored in secure, government-certified cloud or on premise systems.
- c. Penalties shall be imposed for unauthorized access, misuse, or data breaches.

**SECTION 8.** The necessary funds for the operation, maintenance, upgrades, and capacity building of the National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) shall be appropriated annually under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

**SECTION 9.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DICT, PhilHealth, and the National Privacy Commission, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

**SECTION 10.** 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.

**SECTION 11.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 12.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*