

**[PHIC PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 19. S. 2010,
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OUTPATIENT HIV / AIDS TREATMENT PACKAGE

In support of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal Number 6 to halt or reverse the incidence of Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Virus (AIDS) by 2015, PhilHealth through Board Resolution No. 1331, series of 2009 has approved the implementation of an outpatient HIV/AIDS treatment package. This benefit aims to increase the proportion of the population having access to effective HIV/AIDS treatment and patient education measures.

A. General Rules

1. The Outpatient HIV/AIDS Treatment (OHAT) Package will be paid through a case payment scheme. Annual reimbursement is set at 30,000 pesos per year.
2. Only confirmed HIV/AIDS cases requiring treatment shall be covered by the package.
3. Package shall be based on Department of Health (DOH) guidelines on anti-retroviral therapy among adults and adolescents with human immunodeficiency virus infection. All treatment hubs in accredited facilities are required to follow the guidelines set by the DOH.

B. Specific Rules

1. Covered items under this benefit are drugs and medicines, laboratory examinations including Cluster Difference 4 (CD4) level determination test and test for monitoring of anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) toxicity and professional fees of providers.
2. The package will be released in four (4) quarterly payments; each sub-package is worth 7,500 pesos payable to the recognized treatment hub of accredited facilities. A maximum of four (4) treatment sub-packages per year may be claimed by the treatment hub.
3. Each quarterly claim is covered by the rule on single period of confinement computed from the date of consultation. Any additional claims filed within this same period for the same reason will be denied.
4. Only the actual quarters wherein services were provided in a year will be reimbursed.

For example:

Start of treatment

October 15, 2010

Covered period of benefit entitlement October 15, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Total amount of benefit 7,500 pesos

5. Each quarterly claim shall be charged one (1) day against the 45-day annual limit or a sum of 4 days per year.

6. In cases of transfer from one treatment hub to another, PhilHealth will still reimburse provided:

- a. The facility that the patient was transferred to is also PhilHealth accredited.
- b. A referral letter from the referring facility to the receiving facility is accomplished.
- c. The Corporation will reimburse the facility prior to the transfer.

C. Inclusion Criteria

1. PhilHealth shall only pay for cases confirmed by STD/AIDS Central Cooperative Laboratory (SACCL) or Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

D. Exclusion Criteria

1. Excluded in this OHAT Package are the following:

- a. Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS with no laboratory confirmation
- b. HIV/AIDS cases with no indication for anti-retroviral therapy
- c. Management of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis co-infection. A separate package for TB-DOTS may be reimbursed in accredited TB-DOTS facilities. A member may avail of both the OHAT and TB-DOTS packages simultaneously.
- d. Illness (opportunistic infections) secondary to HIV/AIDS that requires hospitalization

2. HIV/AIDS cases requiring confinement are covered under the regular inpatient benefit of PhilHealth.

E. Claims Availment and Processing

1. Claims for the OHAT Package must be submitted to PhilHealth within sixty (60) days from the first day of treatment.

2. Claims with incomplete requirements shall be returned to the facility for completion.

The following documents are required for processing of claims:

a. For all claims

- i. Duly accomplished revised PhilHealth Claim Form 1 by member and employer.
- ii. Duly accomplished revised PhilHealth Claim Form 2 by the health care providers.