

[OWWA MEMORANDUM OF INSTRUCTIONS NO. 006, S. OF 2009, June 02, 2009]

ESTABLISHING AN OFWS MEDICAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR MENTALLY ILL AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED WORKERS AND PRESCRIBING ITS IMPLEMENTING MECHANICS

In view of the Board of Trustee's directive to come-up with a responsive health program for medically challenged OWWA members, particularly those afflicted with mental illness and/or suffering from physical impairment, requiring appropriate medical intervention, a special medical program shall be established within the Secretariat to be known as the OFWs Medical Rehabilitation Program and prescribing its implementing mechanics.

1.0 NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The OFWs Medical Rehabilitation Program is designed to extend limited but sustainable medical rehabilitation services for returning/repatriated OFWs who manifested either symptom of mental illness or are suffering from any form of physical disability, resulting from injury or illness contracted at jobsites, to facilitate gradual but resolute medical progress for regained functional capacity.

2.0 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The program aims to provide medically challenged OFWs with a support system of clinical programs to enable them to regain at the very least minimal functional capacity if not maximum level of functional independence.

2.1 Other Objectives

2.1.1 To provide free access to rehabilitation services and benefit after the PhilHealth benefits have been exhausted;

2.1.2 To enable families of concerned OFWs cope with costly rehabilitation expenses;

2.1.3 To facilitate personal and social reintegration of the OFWs.

3.0 PROGRAM COMPONENT

The Program has four (4) program components:

3.1 Pre-Evaluation Examination - to be undertaken by a competent medical practitioner specialized in his field of discipline to determine client's eligibility for rehabilitation and similar services. The OFW has either to proceed to the next stages of the program or be declared ineligible to the program because he can not be rehabilitated anymore.

3.2 Rehabilitation Services - this includes necessary confinement (for cases of mental illness) in identified PhilHealth-accredited medical center/hospital/clinic with the end purpose of undergoing physical and/or mental therapy as required. It shall also cover corrective surgery and giving away appropriate medical appliances/braces/splints/orthopedic shoes/supplies and counseling services as a follow through therapy of his/ her rehabilitation.

3.3 OFW Family Value Reorientation - the focus of intervention shall be on enhancing the OFW family acceptance and coping to sustain the gains of the rehabilitation component. The earning potential of the family shall also be harnessed to replace the income loss of the OFW.

3.4 Referral Services - this shall be utilized in case the client manifested intention to be referred to other institutions for further assistance or is seeking local or overseas employment.

4.0 MEDICAL COVERAGE

The following mental disorder/illness, disabilities, paralysis, etc. are covered under the program:

4.1 All forms of mental disorder/illness (e.g. acute reactive psychosis and others), regardless of degree of severity requiring medical attention and/or rehabilitation;

4.2 Physical disability - temporary or permanent - requiring therapy/braces, under the following categories:

4.2.1 Back pain, all forms of fractures

4.2.2 Slip disc and other spinal disorder

4.2.3 Other forms of dislocation of the bones

4.3 All cases of paralysis, numbness, speech disorder and the like, whether as a result of heart attack or stroke, accidents, and other illnesses and injuries causing temporary physical incapacity.

4.4 Corrective surgery (with implants) for OFWs with physical disability

5.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be qualified under the program, the OFW applicant:

5.1 must be an active OWWA member at the time of application to the program;

5.2 must be medically repatriated OFW whose mental illness or physical disability was sustained at the post:

5.3 For those already in the country, OFW must have sustained his/her illness/disability within six (6) months upon arrival from overseas employment;

5.4 must be medically diagnosed to be needing rehabilitation services and/or has clear prospect of regaining, at the very least, minimum functional capacity, if not entire recovery, through regular therapy and

rehabilitation as may be determined by competent medical practitioners (program component 3.1);

5.5 If currently undergoing therapy, must be personally defraying all attendant rehabilitation expenses, and is not a recipient of free medical/financial assistance benefit from his company, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), any medical insurance or from other sources.

6.0 DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Proof of at least one (1) OWWA contribution;

6.2 Proof that OFW was medically repatriated;

6.3 Copy of Doctor's medical conclusion/findings with recommendation that OFW need to undergo rehabilitation and/or therapy program;

6.4 Copy of passport with stamped arrival date in the country;

6.5 Notarized Affidavit certifying that the OFW has been defraying personal rehab/therapy expenses (for those currently undergoing medications at own expenses) and not a recipient of free medical insurance from any sources; and

6.6 Copy of medical/police report from the post (with English translation, in case report is written in local language).

7.0 IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

7.1 Establish tie-up with PhilHealth-accredited medical centers/hospitals/clinics or specialized medical/rehabilitation institutions with, at least, basic rehabilitation facilities and a conducive environment for fast recuperation.

7.2 Forge MOUs with identified institutions/centers for clear delineation of responsibilities and other areas of cooperation.

7.3 Forge MOUs with NGOs, government and private institutions, to include industries, dealing within capacitated persons for possible local employment or capacity/skills training.

7.4 Provision of special medicines and supplies shall only be sustained while the client is confined or an in-patient such as in the case OFWs with mental illness or those undergoing corrective surgery. No maintenance drugs shall be covered by this program.

7.5 The client shall shoulder medical expenses in excess of maximum allowable amount under this program.

7.6 The program shall be implemented nationwide after six (6) months of initial implementation in the National Capital Region (NCR).

8.0 ENTITLEMENT

Each beneficiary of the program is entitled to avail of any of the following medical expenses (with minimum and maximum allowable expenses):