

[PHIC PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 19, s. 2007, November 16, 2007]

IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 17, s. 2007

Pursuant to PhilHealth Circular No. 17, s. 2007 which provides for the "discontinuance of compensability of claims for cataract surgery performed during medical missions and thru other recruitment schemes and limiting the number of compensable claims for cataract surgery," the Corporation shall adopt the following guidelines for implementation:

1. For the purpose of this policy, PhilHealth refers to the definition of the following terms:

- "MEDICAL MISSION" or "CATARACT MISSION" is an outreach program for humanitarian/non-profit purposes that provides free cataract surgery to people of all ages who have limited or no means to pay.
- "CATARACT SURGERY" is the removal of the lens of the eye that has developed an opacification, which is referred to as a cataract. Following surgical removal of the natural lens, an artificial intraocular lens is implanted. Cataract surgery is generally performed by an ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) at an ambulatory or inpatient setting, in a surgical center or hospital, using local anesthesia (either topical, peribulbar, or retrobulbar) or general anesthesia in special circumstances. The cataract surgeries with RVS code shall include the following:

RVS Code	Procedure
66825	Repositioning of intraocular lens prosthesis, requiring an incision
66830	Removal of secondary membranous cataract (opacified posterior lens capsule and/or anterior hyaloid) with corneo-scleral section, w/ or w/o iridectomy (iridocapsulotomy, iridocapsulectomy)
66840	Removal of lens material; aspiration technique, one or more stages
66850	phacofragmentation technique (mechanical or ultrasonic) e.g. phacoemulsification)
66852	pars plana approach, with or without vitrectomy
66920	intracapsular
66930	intracapsular, for dislocated lens
66940	extracapsular
66983	Intracapsular cataract extraction w/ insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure)
66984	Extracapsular cataract removal w/ insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure), (irrigation and aspiration)
66985	Insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis, not associated with cataract removal
66986	Exchange of intraocular lens
66987	Extracapsular cataract removal w/ insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure), (e.g. phacoemulsification)

2. All claims (includes PAO-National-and LGU-sponsored) for cataract surgeries shall not be compensated if performed under any of the following conditions:

2.1 The health care provider/s (professional and/or institution) solicit/s patients through any means or form or through any medium that violates the code of ethics of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology; i.e., he/she offers to or receives from a fellow physician, allied health professional or independent solicitor any fee(s) or favor(s) for the purpose of obtaining patients.