

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3924



Introduced by Congressman ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Kidney diseases are the seventh leading cause of death in the Philippines. According to the Department of Health, 23,000 Filipinos underwent dialysis due to kidney failure in 2013, nearly four times higher than the 4,000 cases recorded in 2004, or a 10 to 15 percent increase a year.

Dialysis is very costly for most Filipinos who suffer from chronic kidney diseases. To have adequate treatment, a patient has to spend Php25,000 to Php46,000 per month.

This bill seeks to ease the financial burden of patients suffering from renal failure. It directs the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to increase the number of dialysis treatment coverage of members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) from 45 sessions to 90 sessions per year. It also provides a maximum coverage limit of Php225,000.00 annually for dialysis treatment.

In line of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO INCREASE THE COVERAGE FOR DIALYSIS TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO NINETY (90) SESSIONS PER YEAR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall increase the coverage for dialysis treatment of members of the National Health Insurance Program from forty-five (45) sessions to ninety (90) sessions per year, or until the maximum limit of the annual package in the amount of two hundred twenty-five thousand pesos (Php 225,000.00) is consumed.

SEC 2. Hospitals, dialysis centers and other health facilities shall comply with the safety and quality standards of dialysis services which shall be strictly monitored by the PhilHealth and the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC 3. Private and public hospitals, dialysis centers and other health facilities shall be mandated to report incidences and the prevalence of renal disease to the Philippine Renal Disease Registry of the DOH as a requirement for the renewal of their DOH licenses to operate a hemodialysis center or unit.

SEC 4. The DOH shall, after due process, determine the appropriate administrative sanctions to be meted out to hospitals, dialysis centers, and health facilities that are found to have violated Sections 2 and 3 of this Act.

SEC. 5. A periodic assessment and reasonable adjustments of the benefit package for dialysis patients shall be made by the PhilHealth after taking into consideration its financial capability and changes in the socio-economic conditions of the country.

SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the President of PhilHealth shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Health, issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,