

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
28 March 2019

ACCESS TO OUTPATIENT CONSULTATION AND LABORATORY TESTS FOR WORKERS PUSHED

Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act is a dream measure for millions of Filipinos for whom decent health care is a luxury beyond their reach was signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on 20 February 2019. It was made effective on 9 March 2019, 15 days after its publication on 21 February 2019.

The Philippine Health Care Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) recently conducted its *Health Care Financing Summit* on March 18-19, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City. The summit's theme "*Multiple lenses, One Collective Stand on Health Care Financing: A Framework for Action*", gathered different stakeholders of the Universal Health Care to solicit collective action towards the effective implementation of the law.

The Department of Labor and Employment, as represented by two (2) senior physicians of the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), namely, Ma. Imelda S. Santos, MD and Marco Antonio S. Valeros, MD, ensured that the law shall pave way for all workers, specially in the SMEs, be able to avail the other facets of the social insurance as free consultation fees, laboratory tests, and other diagnostic services will be part of the essential health services.

These essential health services seeks to connect health services and referrals in the different service delivery networks. Further, the BWC also recommended for a socialized payment of premium for PhilHealth such as setting a lower premium for the small and micro businesses in the Philippines.

These two recommendations were recognized as significant by the body and shall be considered in the writing of the rules and regulations implementing the Universal Health Care Act.

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