

Philippines' National Health Insurance (PhilHealth)

Coverage for Cancer Services: Legal Basis

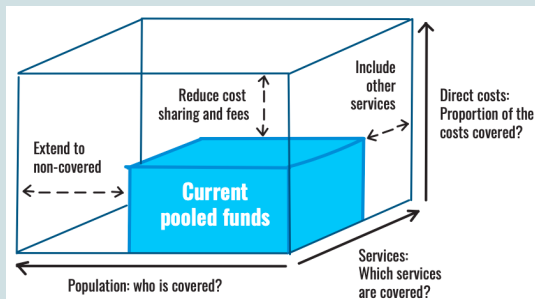


**RA No. 7875, as amended by
RA Nos. 9241 and 10606
National Health Insurance Act**

NHIP to provide responsive benefits packages and improve its benefit packages to meet the **needs** of its members.



RA No. 11223 (UHC Act)



GOAL:

Financial Risk Protection

- All Filipinos are covered by Social Health Insurance (Immediate Eligibility)
- PhilHealth to be the national strategic purchaser of individual-based health goods and services
- Prioritize cost-effective interventions (HTA)
- Transparent process for benefits package development



**RA No. 11215
National Integrated Cancer
Control Act (NICCA)**

PhilHealth to expand its benefit packages to include primary care screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment assistance, supportive care, survivorship follow-up care rehabilitation, and end-of-life care

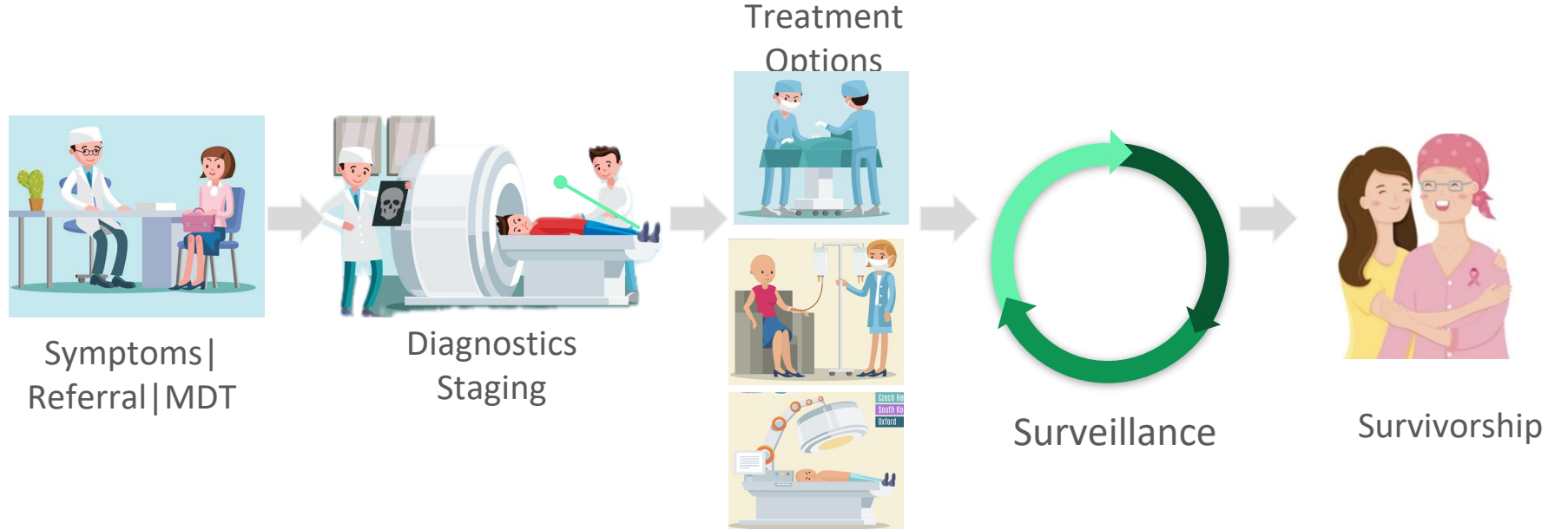
Criteria for Prioritization

Health System Goals | Individual-Based Health Services | Criteria & Methodology

Philippines Burden of Disease	Out-of-Pocket	Cost-effectiveness	Country commitment and Local Context
Evidence Data	Financial Risk Protection	Health Technology Assessment	SDG Health Systems Strengthening
Guides PhilHealth on how it should invest in health, guided by DALYs	Equity consideration Support value	Coverage decisions are guided by a positive recommendation from the HTA Council	Philippine Development Plan National Objectives for Health Legislative Mandate (Ex. NICCA, Mental Health Act, Rare Disease Act, Magna Carta for PWD) Public Interest

→ Consultation with **high level decision-makers** ←

Patient Journey & PhilHealth Coverage for Cancer Services



Screening,
Consultations
& diagnostics
(Konsulta)

Outpatient
emergency
care package

Inpatient
Benefits
(All case
rates)

“Catastrophic
Benefits”
(Z Benefits)

Physical
Medicine &
Rehabilitation

Palliative &
hospice care
(Ongoing
development)

Ongoing Expansion: Acute lymphocytic leukemia, breast, prostate, cervical, colorectal cancers

Ongoing Development: Lung, Liver, Ovarian cancer services

Philippines' Major Challenges in Financing Cancer Treatment

Demand Side (Public's use of health services)	Supply Side (Delivery, quality, reach of healthcare services)
<p>Misconceptions and Health Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beliefs, limited awareness about cancer symptoms and risk factors ● Delay in seeking healthcare services ● Choice of healthcare provider ● Diet: Sweet, salty, greasy <p>Out-of-pocket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prohibitive cost (surgery, medicines, doctors' fees, diagnostic tests) <p>Information Tools Limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ads & commercials more on "fast-food" ● Limited public health campaigns on healthy lifestyle choices; anti-smoking ● Warning labels found only on cigarette packs 	<p>Challenges in funding and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dependent on political priorities and budget allotment; stockout of essential drugs; bureaucratic delays in procurement; ● Limited access to screening & early detection; treatment delays; abandonment; poor outcomes (Access challenging due also to geography-Philippines is an archipelago) ● Trained surgeons, oncologists, & healthcare workers are limited and their practice concentrated in the urban setting; migration of nurses in search of better opportunities outside the Philippines <p>High cost of cancer treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Market-driven healthcare system ● More private vs public providers <p>Limited data systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Need for more robust data for research, tracking, & areas for improvement