



PhilHealth Region 7 initiates on-site registration for students

by: Harold L. Ballener, Public Affairs Unit, PRO 7

PhilHealth's Local Health Insurance Offices (LHIOs) in Central Visayas have initiated special registration for students enrolling as members of the National Health Insurance Program in time for the upcoming limited face-to-face classes.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Health (DOH) released in 2021 Joint Memorandum Circular 2021-001 or the "Guidelines on the Gradual Reopening of Campuses of Higher Education Institutions for Limited Face-to-Face Classes during Covid-19 Pandemic" for the protection of students, faculty and staff from COVID-19. In the said joint memorandum, higher education institutions are to ensure that students who will participate in limited face-to-face classes are registered with PhilHealth or with equivalent medical insurance that covers medical expenses related to COVID-19.

Even before the pandemic, students who are 21 years old or older are encouraged to be registered with PhilHealth for them to avail of health insurance coverage as principal member themselves. Children 20 years old and



On-site registration conducted by LHIO Cebu City in cooperation with CTU Main Campus in April 2022.

below who are unmarried and unemployed are qualified dependents of their parent-members based on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 7875, as amended.

To make the registration process convenient to students, the said LHIOs have coordinated with schools in their areas. LHIOs in Cebu City and Danao City pushed for onsite registration, while LHIO Carcar City made arrangements with schools for scheduled transactions for students to avoid crowding in the office in keeping with prevailing health protocols.



Aside from on-site registration, LHIO Danao City also conducted orientation about the National Health Insurance Program and the provisions of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act to students and their parents at the CTU San Francisco Campus in Camotes Islands, Cebu.

Dr. Daisy Therese S. Llenes, Medical Officer III of Cebu Technological University (CTU) – Main Campus, stressed the importance of their collaboration with PhilHealth. “Nakatabang gyud sa mga estudyante ang *onsite registration* kay convenient kaayo para nila ug makaayo pod [ang ilang pagpamiyembro],” she said. [“*The onsite registration was a big help to students as it was convenient for them in registering as members.*”]

CTU is a state university with one main campus in Cebu City, 9 satellite and 13 extension campuses throughout the province of Cebu. Prior to this engagement, PhilHealth 7 Public Affairs Unit collaborated with Dr. Llenes in the conduct of orientation dubbed as *PhilHealth 101: A webinar on the National Health Insurance Program* for students to understand the importance of their membership, including their responsibilities being contributors to the social health insurance fund of the country.

On the other hand, Ms. Anafe Campanilla, Chief Social Insurance Officer of LHIO Cebu City emphasized that membership for students prepares them for the resumption of face-to-face classes and ensures their health insurance coverage with PhilHealth. She further encouraged other universities to tie-up with PhilHealth for on-site registration by just expressing interest through a formal letter addressed to the Office of the Regional Vice President. (END)



LHIO Carcar City regularly conducts orientation about the NHIP and UHC to students in southern Cebu before they register as members.



Close to 500 students were catered to during a series of on-site registration conducted by LHIO Cebu City in cooperation with CTU Main Campus in April 2022.