



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

26 July 2022

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2022- 0397

FOR : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HEALTH - BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM), EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES, DIRECTORS OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Clarification and Updates on the Grant of COVID-19 Health Care Worker Benefits

This Circular is hereby issued to clarify the grant of the following COVID-19 benefits to eligible health care workers (HCWs):

1. COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance (SRA)

SRA is an allowance given in the amount not exceeding Php 5,000 per month to all public and private health workers **directly catering to or in contact with** COVID-19 patients. This is provided in addition to the hazard pay under Republic Act (RA) No. 7305 and the active hazard duty pay under RA No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act.

As stated in Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2022-0136¹, the grant of SRA is only applicable to services reckoning **September 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021**. Pursuant to relevant guidelines cited in the DM, the grant of SRA does not cover the services rendered starting July 1, 2021 onwards.

In addition, please be informed that the Management Services Team (MST), formerly named as Administration and Financial Management Team (AFMT), released a memorandum last 08 September 2021 for the final submission of the list of remaining eligible public and private HCWs that have yet to receive their SRA, with a deadline on **13 September 2021**. Requests received on or before this deadline were forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for additional funding amounting to a total of Php 2,747,690,725.30 to cover for around 148,500 HCWs. However, only Php 1,185,116,935.00 was granted by the DBM to cover for around 66,080 HCWs. Please see Annex A for the list of facilities included in the request for

¹ Clarification on the Grant of COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance to Public and Private Health Workers for the Period of July to December 2021

additional funding but were not included in the recipients of SRA under Department Order No. 2022-0017².

As of date, the DOH is facilitating the request to DBM for additional funding for the grant of SRA to the remaining 72,658 eligible HCWs.

2. Meals, Accommodation, and Transportation (MAT) Benefits

The MAT benefits under RA No. 11494 were initially provided in-kind or as actual services (i.e. actual transportation arrangements, accommodation, and meals for HCWs). However, some health facilities were not able to disburse the funds for such purposes. Instead, the funds were reverted back to DOH where it was then used to support other requirements for the pandemic response.

Recognizing that a number of HCWs have not been able to receive the MAT benefits, additional funds were provided by the Office of the President last December 2021 for the grant of MAT as cash in the amount of **Php 3,500 only** to eligible HCWs who were not given any kind of MAT benefits during services rendered from **15 September to 19 December 2020**.

As of date, there are no more available funds for the grant of MAT benefits.

3. One COVID-19 Allowance (OCA)

Republic Act No. 11639 or the FY 2022 General Appropriations Act provides for the payment of COVID-19 benefits to eligible public and private HCWs and non-HCWs, regardless of employment status, who are involved in COVID-19 response in health facilities. It stipulates that the amount of the COVID-19 benefits shall vary according to risk exposure of the HCW and non-HCW in particular setting: three thousand pesos (Php 3,000) for low risk, six thousand pesos (Php 6,000) for medium risk, and nine thousand pesos (Php 9,000) for high risk.

Subsequent thereto, the DOH and DBM issued Joint Circular No. 2022-0001³ as implementing guidelines for the grant of One COVID-19 Allowance (OCA), which will **cover and substitute for all COVID-19 benefits previously enumerated** in the law. Moreover, the COVID-19 Risk Exposure Classification (CREC) of all health workers shall be anchored to the Administrative Order (AO) No. 2022-0001⁴, which provides the parameters in determining the COVID-19 risk exposure of personnel in health facilities involved in COVID-19 response.

To streamline the management of OCA, the One COVID-19 Allowance Information System (OCAIS) was developed and is being enhanced to serve as the official platform automating the entire process for the grant of OCA starting from masterlisting of HCWs and non-HCWs, submission of CREC reports, up to the processing of OCA forms and reporting of the disbursement of OCA.

² Guidelines on the Sub-Allotment and Transfer of Funds to Selected Centers for Health Development (CHDs), Philippine General Hospital (PGH) and Philippine Genome Center (PGC) for the Grant of Special Risk Allowance (SRA) of Healthcare Workers (HCWs) in Response to COVID-19 Health Emergency under Administrative Order No. 42 Batch 12

³ Guidelines on the Grant of One COVID-19 Allowance (OCA) to Public and Private Health care Workers (HCWs) and Non-HCWs in Health Facilities Involved in COVID-19 Response

⁴ Guidelines on COVID-19 Risk Exposure Classification of Healthcare Workers

The grant of OCA covers services physically rendered starting **January 1, 2022**.

Under the 2022 GAA, a total of Php 7,919,160,000.00 (PS: Php 4.5B and MOOE: Php 3.4B) was allotted for the provision of OCA. As of date, only Php 922M under the Personnel Services (PS) funds remains from the Php 7.9B. Be it noted that the funds under PS may only be allotted to regular or plantilla personnel in DOH facilities.

As of date, the DOH is facilitating the request to DBM for the release of Php 42B under the unprogrammed funds in the 2022 GAA for the provision of OCA.

4. Health Emergency Allowance (HEA)

Republic Act No. 11712 or the Public Health Emergency Benefits and Allowances for Health Care Workers Act provides for the grant of HEA to all HCWs and non-HCWs, regardless of employment status, during the COVID-19 pandemic or other public health emergencies of national scale that may be declared in the future, from the time of the declaration of the public health emergency until lifted by the President.

Last 26 June 2022, the IRR was published in a national newspaper. Supplemental guidelines are currently being drafted to guide all operating units for the operationalization of the provision of HEA.

Starting 1 July 2022, the HEA shall replace OCA as the sole COVID-19 benefits for eligible public and private HCWs engaged in COVID-19 response, covering services rendered from 1 July 2021 until the state of national emergency is lifted. An estimated amount of Php 63.5B is needed for the grant of HEA from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2022.

The dissemination of the information to all concerned units/offices is hereby requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

Digitally signed by Beltran

Maylene Meniado

Date: 2022.07.27 19:10:10


MA. CAROLINA V. TAINO, CPA, MGM, CESO I

Undersecretary of Health

Management Services Team

**CONSOLIDATED REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COVID-19 SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE
(BATCH 6)**

REGION	FACILITY	PS		MOOE		Total No. of Eligible HWs	TOTAL AMOUNT
		NO. OF ELIGIBLE HWs	AMOUNT	NO. OF ELIGIBLE HWs	AMOUNT		
COVID-19 SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE							
NCR	METRO MANILA CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	16,572	391,589,364.30	16,572	391,589,364.30
NCR	METRO MANILA CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	12,008	292,374,402.31	12,008	292,374,402.31
NCR	METRO MANILA CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	6,175	121,717,595.15	6,175	121,717,595.15
NCR	METRO MANILA CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	1,094	26,916,260.87	1,094	26,916,260.87
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	35,849	832,597,622.63	35,849	832,597,622.63
1	ILOCOS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	9,685	112,992,437.72	9,685	112,992,437.72
1	ILOCOS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	2,116	67,808,172.20	677	21,694,769.65	2,793	89,502,941.85
SUB TOTAL		2,116	67,808,172.20	10,362	134,687,207.37	12,478	202,495,379.57
5	BICOL CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	2,870	59,063,465.26	2,870	59,063,465.26
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	2,870	59,063,465.26	2,870	59,063,465.26
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	1,694	28,571,136.36	1,694	28,571,136.36
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	5,122	38,299,718.18	5,122	38,299,718.18
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	133	3,037,954.55	133	3,037,954.55
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	1,210	14,225,738.64	1,210	14,225,738.64
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	752	4,430,681.82	752	4,430,681.82
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	675	14,960,000.00	675	14,960,000.00
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	802	4,316,909.09	802	4,316,909.09
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	147	963,181.82	147	963,181.82
6	WESTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	1,630	30,183,675.00	1,630	30,183,675.00
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	12,165	138,988,995.46	12,165	138,988,995.46
7	GOV. CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	0	0.00	382	11,194,148.00	382	11,194,148.00
7	CENTRAL VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	8,153	78,445,108.04	8,153	78,445,108.04
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	8,535	89,639,256.04	8,535	89,639,256.04
8	EASTERN VISAYAS CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT	0	0.00	355	7,417,412.76	355	7,417,412.76
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	355	7,417,412.76	355	7,417,412.76
13	ADELA SERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER	0	0.00	324	7,255,822.02	324	7,255,822.02
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	324	7,255,822.02	324	7,255,822.02

BARMM	BARMM	0	0.00	82	2,340,000.00	82	2,340,000.00
SUB TOTAL		0	0.00	82	2,340,000.00	82	2,340,000.00
TOTAL		2,116	67,808,172.20	70,542	1,271,989,781.54	72,658	1,339,797,953.74

TYPE OF FACILITY	PS		MOOE		Total No. of Eligible HWs	Total Amount
	NO. OF ELIGIBLE HWs	AMOUNT	NO. OF ELIGIBLE HWs	AMOUNT		
RETAINED, TRCs	0	0	706	18,449,970	706	18,449,970
GOCC	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHD	2,116	67,808,172	69,754	1,251,199,812	71,870	1,319,007,984
BARMM	0	0	82	2,340,000	82	2,340,000
GRAND TOTAL	2,116	67,808,172.20	70,542	1,271,989,781.54	72,658	1,339,797,953.74