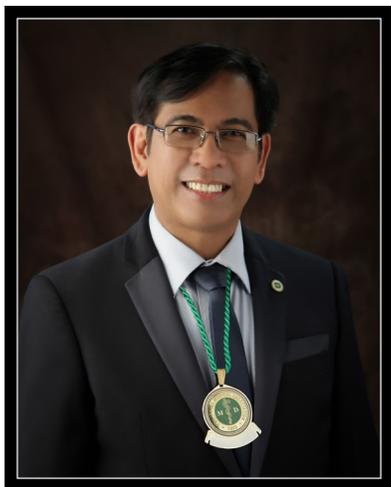




# THE PHYSICIAN

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION • VOLUME XXXI NO. 2



## PhilHealth Concerns

**Benito P. Atienza, MD**  
PMA President 2020-2022

### PMA

Dr. Benito Atienza (Member)  
Dr. Sharon Rafil (Member)

The Accreditation Appeals Review Committee meets every month to discuss the decision point for the appeals and motion for reconsideration for Healthcare Professionals with cases with the legal sector or arbitration office. *(see flowchart below)*

The members of Accreditation Appeals Review Committee are Dr. Clementine A. Bautista (Vice Chairperson and Acting SVP-HFPS, Philhealth), Dr. Rizza Majella L. Herrera

(Acting Vice President, Quality Assurance Group) Atty. Jose Mari F. Tolentino (Senior Vice President, Legal Services Sector, Philhealth), Walter R. Bacareza (Vice President, Area I and Area II), Atty. Alfredo B. Pineda II (Vice President, Area III), Atty. Recto A. Panti (Vice President, Area IV), Asec. Maria Francia M. Laxamana, MD (Asst. Secretary, Department of Health), Dr. Benito Atienza, President, Philippine Medical Association) Dr. Edmundo N. Lopez (President, Philippine Hospital Association), Erlinda C. Palaganas, RN (President, Philippine Nurses Association)

What are the Roles of PMA in PhilHealth?

1. Member of the Accreditation Committee
2. Member of the Quality Assurance together with Specialty Divisions and Specialty Societies.

Philhealth also created the Technical Working Group on Performance Commitment. The members are the following:

### PHIC

Dr. Rizza Majella Herrera (Chair)  
Dr. Shirley Domingo (Vice-Chair)  
Walter Bacareza (Member)  
Atty. Rogelio Pocallan Jr. (Member)  
Dr. Leona Ellen Bayta (Member)

### PHA

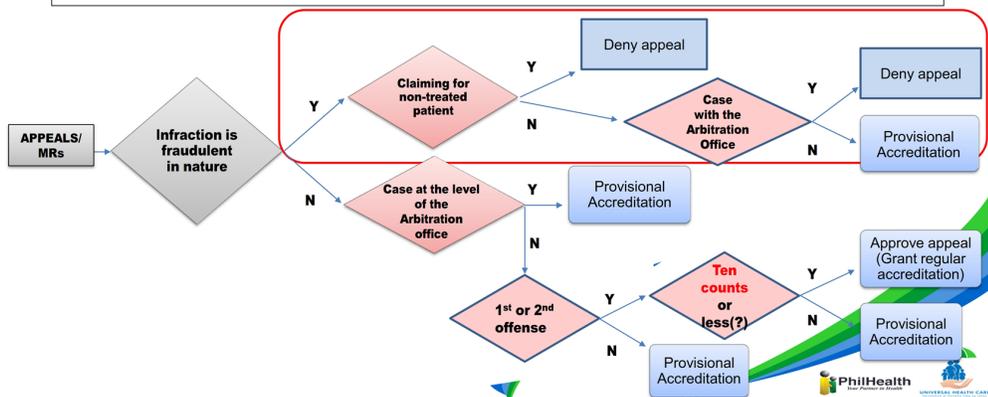
Dr. Jaime A. Almora (Member)

### PHAPi

Atty. Janet Perez, MD (Member)  
Atty. Jhianne Natividad (Member)

## DECISION POINTS

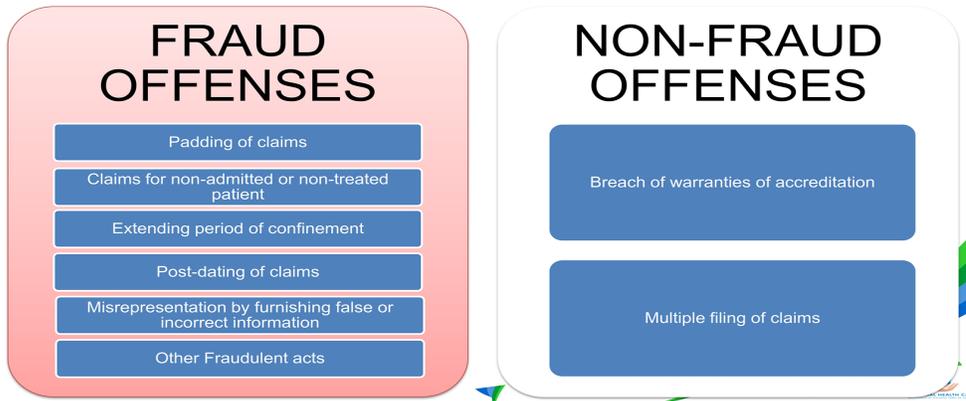
**Appeals / Motion for Reconsiderations for Health Care Providers**  
**CASES WITH THE LEGAL SECTOR OR ARBITRATION OFFICE**



*Philhealth Concerns,  
from page 1*

Difference of Fraud Offenses and Non-Fraud Offenses according to Republic Act 10606

## RA 10606



## PRO AC



### Return To Hospital (RTH)

1. System Generated
2. Suggestion that there may be at least 3 specialist members of the technical working group
3. Suggestion to reorient the hospital to avoid the common reasons for RTH

### Reasons for Return To Hospital (RTH)

#### Incomplete Documents

- Certified true copy of the billing statement

- Vital signs monitoring
- Detailed clinical chart for Covid claims
- Laboratory results: ( sepsis) - blood culture; (Covid-9) labs RT PCR
- Rapid antigen test is not acceptable but PHIC is studying the possibility
- Rapid antigen test has to be validated by RITM to have at least 81% sensitivity but so far only few have passed

- Minimum requirement is CBC and blood culture without which we cannot claim.
- Affordability of the test: As of now policy stands. Document in the course in the wards. Laboratories requested but the patient cannot afford the test and support with monitoring and clinical findings. Ensure the lab is not ARSP.

### Here are some of the Reasons for Denial

1. The case is not compensable.
2. Remdesivir and Tocilizumab still not being reimbursed (PHIC asked for specific claim) They are not yet certified by BFAD and only allowed under Emergency Use Authorization. Hence PHIC cannot pay. They are not in PNDF. WHO still does not recommend Remdesivir. Claims are prospective and not retrospective.
3. ICD 10 not matched: ICD has to be consistent throughout the claim document
4. Discrepancies of names
5. Undeclared dependents

**Debit Credit Payment method released funds to hospitals (about 80% of claim) but did not include name of patients, resulting in delayed reimbursements.**

True but reconciliation will be done, names generated every week so PHIC Regional Offices are required to give out to the hospitals the names so they can give the share of the MDs.

*Philhealth Concerns,  
from page 2*

It is an advantage to avail of DCPM if in IATF identified area as payment is accelerated. 60% is released. Otherwise regular processing is applied. Claims actually increased so there is an issue in processing. Sometimes it is already with the hospital but not yet released to the doc.

**Other concerns:**

**PAYMENTS**

PHIC payments in LGU-run hospitals divided amongst all hospital employees. No transparency as to total amount and taxation is questioned.

A: PHIC can only pay the claim but cannot control in the division of funds.

**BIR is running after the MDs due to not proper declaration of PHIC**

A: Under the TRAIN law, the hospital now does the withholding, not the PHIC anymore.

**Accreditation/reinstatement/renewal of Accreditation**

Problem in system re: double filing, but doctors are also included. Only few are intentional but they are not renewed even if only system error. He appealed for speedier resolution for doctors or HCIs who are victims of system error.

- Content of complaint is the basis, hence the answer of respondent is important to know if the charge is with basis or not. Please answer the complaint/charge. PHIC is increasing manpower too, to address this. Usually if system error, claims are usually approved, not a major reason to not accredit.
- PHIC recognizes double filings in the system. They are usually just double sent and mirror image.

**Payment of premiums: not necessarily 3 years anymore?**

Advanced 3 years contribution are no longer required. MDs may pay by quarter, as long as they regularly pay. Suspension of increase in payment is still unclear (suspended by the President)

**REIMBURSEMENTS**

Reimbursement of Covid Package (moderate, severe and critical) is downgraded to mild (only Level 1 Hospital in the city - Region VII). Shouldn't it be based on Case Rates instead?

Government hospitals have only been paid almost 44 % of what is owed since 2020 and most of private hospitals have pending payments especially with the COVID Packages (LMS)

PF for pathologists for RT PCR testing and Rapid Antigen Tests. **YES**

The private molecular labs still having pending payments for the tests done since 2020.

- Yes, there are still outstanding payments for private molecular laboratories. This partly due to many claims have to be encoded as they were filed manually. They should all be filed electronically.

**Recommendations regarding Standard of Care**

1. Manual on the standard of care that is the basis should be shared.
2. Guidelines to follow or to be followed
3. Present Algorithm for reference
4. Provide examples of denied claims

Standard of care for debridement of some were denied & others were approved. Inconsistency of standard of care.

There is a circular for RVS for debridement just for burns. If used for other claims, they will be denied.

Consider the evaluation of the standard of care by the PHIC MD based on the speciality of the case. Example : Covid pregnant, MISC, etc. Suggest to have PHIC specialists as evaluators also.

A: Part of delayed COVID payments but PHIC is coming to address that.

POGS already submitted for consideration CPG for COVID in labor and delivery and the baby itself or those who are not deliver but need monitoring.

A: This is still under review by the benefit development group.





# EDITORIAL

MARIA CHRISTINA H. VENTURA, MD, FPPS

The Philippine Medical Association has been very busy these past few months. Our Christmas holidays were a chance to see each other with the easing up of restrictions. However, this also saw the emergence and spread of the omicron variant. Asymptomatic would turn out positive due to close contact. Watching the numbers increase exponentially over this time period raised alarms.

We had to go back one step and stay indoors again. Health breaks were even declared by schools. The children were restricted once more. Even the opportunity for the face-to-face classes as piloted was put to a halt. But then just as it started, it began to dissipate and the numbers are where it is at now. There is speculation that an Alert Level 1 is around the corner. This period also saw the plan to boost the 5-11 years old age group already. We were really catching up with the world.

We have much to be grateful for. Having time spent with our loved ones. Keeping connected through technology in all forms. We feature in this issue the continued successes of our regional assemblies held virtually. We also feature an article written by a young member of the PMA whose passion is into telemedicine and all its peripherals. Let us learn how adaptation to the new normal involves reinventing ourselves as doctors as well. Let us be proactive in continuing to learn the new way of things.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

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	Mechael Angelo Marasigan, MD
	Arnold C. Yu, MD
	Representatives from Specialty Divisions

## The Physician

*The Physician* is an internal publication of the Philippine Medical Association instituted by the PMA Board of Governors for the dissemination of information to PMA Members. Its office is at the PMA Secretariat, North Avenue, Quezon City 1105; contact numbers: 9296366; 9262447, 09189234732, 09178221357; fax number: 9296951;

Emails: [philmedas@yahoo.com](mailto:philmedas@yahoo.com);



## PMA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2021

**NYMPHA E. SAN PASCUAL-MUNDIN, MD**

**Overall Chair, PMA Christmas Party 2021**

**Governor, Central Tagalog Region**

The PMA celebrated the first hybrid Christmas Party with the theme, “Paskong Pilipino sa Buong Mundo” last December 4, 2021. Central Tagalog Region Governor Dr. Nympha San Pascual-Mundin was delegated by PMA President Dr. Benito P. Atienza to head the Christmas Event. In this regard, each of the six CTR Component Society Presidents were given specific roles. Dr. Nino Isabedra, of Marikina Valley Medical Society was tasked to organize the preparation for the Eucharistic celebration. He was likewise assigned to oversee the event proper. Dr. Prudencio Sta. Lucia Jr. of Pasay-Parañaque Medical Society was assigned to make teasers as short introductory reminders of the party and the decorations of the venue. Dr. Reginald Matubang, of San Juan Medical Society was assigned to formulate the mechanics for the Criteria of both the Photo and Parol Contests. Dr. Rozaida Anna Maglaya of Valenzuela City Medical Society, was designated to be the Game Master of the Night and as agreed, the prizes were all in Cash. Dr. Susana Caseria of Caloocan City Medical Society was the one in charge of the Best in Costume Contest for “Star of The Night”. All the entries for the contests by the different component societies were submitted on specific deadlines, were all pre-judged, and the winners were announced during the party. Dr. Marienella Francisco-Mallari together with Dr. Mark Herbert Rosario of Makati Medical Society were assigned to be the Masters of Ceremony.

The event first commenced with the Celebration of the Holy Mass as officiated by Fr. Dan Vicente Cansino Jr of the Ministry of the Infirm, Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines.

The Program Proper was hosted by the PMA Secretary General, Dr. Realiza G. Henson. The program begun with the Invocation led by PMA National Treasurer Dr Mildred M. Mariano, followed by the Philippine National Anthem and the PMA Hymn. The PMA CTR Governor Dr. Nympha San Pascual-Mundin, the Over-all Chair of the Christmas Party, delivered the welcome remarks. The guests and dignitaries, namely the PMA National Officers, Board of Governors, and Component Society Presidents were either virtually present online or physically present at the PMA Auditorium. PMA Quezon City Governor Dr. Mechael Angelo G. Marasigan duly acknowledged everyone. The PMA President, Dr. Benito P. Atienza, warmly delivered the Christmas Message for all the PMA members.

The First Hybrid Christmas Party, started off with an opening salvo of a duet performed by the emcees, Dr. Marienella Francisco-Mallari and Dr. Mark Herbert Rosario from Makati Medical Society, with their song, “I Want To Spend My Lifetime Loving You”, a fitting compliment to their costumes with a “Zorro” theme. Both were later congratulated for their duet and excellent hosting.

The program was highlighted by virtual presentations of around 20

different Component & Specialty Societies from Northern to Southern Regions, and a live dance presentation from Quezon City Medical Society. The collective effort of the incumbent PMA Governors made this possible. There was no dull moment in the presentation of entries for the Parol, Photo, and Star of the Night Contests, as entries were show cased while being serenaded virtually by soloists Dr Ralph Delos Santos of Laguna Medical Society, Dr Lunette Villarin of Lipa City Medical Society, and Dr Alexander Roullo Bantiles of Lanao Del Norte Medical Society. “Pasko ng PMA” was played at the beginning of the program, rendered by Dr Cristeto Azucena of San Pablo City Medical Society.

The announcement of the winners of the Photo, Parol, and the Star of the Night Contests added excitement to the virtual and live audience. The Top 12 winners of the Photo Contests were included in the PMA 2022 Calendar, which will be sold and form part of the CTR Fundraising Project for PMA. Some of the parol entries were displayed, which added more impact to the beautiful Christmas decorations that Pasay-Parañaque Medical Society has creatively prepared and displayed at the PMA Auditorium. Dr. Susana Caseria of Caloocan City Medical Society, together with Ferdie Granil, Fashion Designer and overall judge, announced the 12 contenders chosen for Best in Costume. They later announced the Runners-up, and Final Winners for the “Stars of the Night”, in male and female categories.

PMA Christmas Party, from page 5

### PAROL MAKING CONTEST WINNERS



**1st Prize**  
San Pablo City Medical Society



**2nd Prize**  
Pangasinan Medical Society



**3rd Prize**  
Bulacan Medical Society

### PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



**1st Prize**  
Quezon City Medical Society



**2nd Prize**  
Bulacan Medical Society



**3rd Prize**  
North Cotabato Medical Society



**3rd Prize**  
Batangas Medical Society

### START OF THE NIGHT CONTEST



**Grand Prize Winner - Female**  
Luz P. Acosta-Barrientos, MD  
Governor, Southeastern  
Mindanao Region



**Grand Prize Winner - Male**  
Manrico Kit C. Cruz, MD  
Past President  
Laguna Medical Society

The most awaited event that night was the "Raffle" via a Virtual Tambiolo as ably and energetically hosted by the Game Master, Dr. Rozaida Anna Maglaya of Valenzuela City Medical Society. This event was the most popular among the virtual participants because the prizes were all in Cash.

To formally end the Christmas Party Program, PMA Vice President Dr Christine S. Tinio delivered the Closing Remarks.

It was truly a very memorable night! The very first hybrid Christmas Party that was eagerly attended by 172 virtual and 65 face to face attendees.

**IT WAS INDEED A MOMENTOUS  
EVENT TO REMEMBER!**



## The PMA NCR Regional Assembly: Putting our Best Feet Forward

MECHAEL ANGELO G. MARASIGAN, MD

Governor, Quezon City Region

Last December 12, 2021, it was the National Capital Region's turn to host the 6th PMA Regional Assembly, traditionally collaborated with United Laboratories for all the fourteen (14) regions under the Philippine Medical Association. Before the COVID19 pandemic, this CPD activity would have been in a five star hotel with a scenic view of the region's tourist attraction, attended by more than a hundred delegates in pursuit of continuing medical education. But with a worldwide battlefront still in progress, the PMA through its Commission on Continuing Professional Development or CPD chaired by Dr Ricardo A. Batac remained undaunted and moved forward with this worthwhile event.

With the constant assistance of the PMA secretariat (headed by Jep Paguio), the list of registrants were updated weekly to monitor the region's efforts in inviting our colleagues. It would not have been possible with the three (3) Governors who left no opportunities wasted in inviting colleagues: Dr Alejandro Tan of Manila, Dr Nympha Mundin of Central Tagalog (6 component societies: Caloocan City, Makati, Marikina Valley, Pasay Parañaque, San Juan & Valenzuela City) and Dr Mylene Basco-Tiamson of Rizal (10 component societies: Taytay Angono Cainta, Eastern Rizal, Pasig City, Taguig, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Malabon-Navotas, Antipolo, Las Piñas & Rizal Parañaque). Their camaraderie and friendships were unbelievable.

As in all assemblies, the program included an invocation,



singing of the Philippine National Anthem and PMA Hymn, Welcome Address by Dr Mechael Angelo Marasigan, Cordial Greetings by then OIC of Unilab PRMD Ms Chona Inciong Dario, CPD Updates from Dr Ricardo Batac, Introduction of PMA President (by Quezon City Medical Society President Dr Teresita Agda) and the PMA President's Message. The excellent list of lecturers were introduced by equally competent colleagues: Dr Jeremy Zulaybar (President of Mandaluyong City Medical Society), Dr Gladness Henna Martinez (Asst. Secretary Taguig City Medical Society), Dr David Pinto (Manila Medical Society Dist 4 President), Dr Nino Isabedra (Marikina Valley Medical Society President), Dr Rozaida Anna Maglaya (President of Valenzuela City Medical Society), and

Dr Arnold Monteiro (Treasurer, Quezon City Medical Society). The accomplished speakers were: Dr Nina Gloriani "Navigating Through COVID19 Waves or Surges: Vaccines and VOCs", Dr Joseph Adrian Buensalido "Updates in COVID19 Management", Dr Angelito Benjamin Belen, our very own Governor for Southern Tagalog on "Eco Friendly Clinic and Hospital", Dr Jomell Julian "Iron Deficiency and Iron Deficiency Anemia: The Hidden Threat", Dr Leonora Fernandez "Nebulization and Inhalation Therapy Post Pandemic: What's New? Upcoming? Renewed? Cancelled?" and Dr Joan Mae Perez-Rifareal "Shout out sa Burn out: Building Resilience and Prevention of Burn out". With the engaging speakers, the Question and Answer were handled smoothly by Dr Ma. Jasmin Yason (Secretary and CME Chair of the Quezon City Medical Society). QCMS Vice President Dr Joseph Rylan Flores delivered the Closing Remarks, and extended gratitude to everyone. At the end of the lectures, the assembly broke previous records of attendance in any NCR regional assemblies past with 1280 attendees with 97% attendance rate.

With weeks of preparation through virtual meetings, tech-runs and constant coordination via email, text and messaging, it was a proven formula that nothing can go wrong with a well prepared team dedicated to realising goals. Indeed, we put our best feet forward, and we are moving together as one.



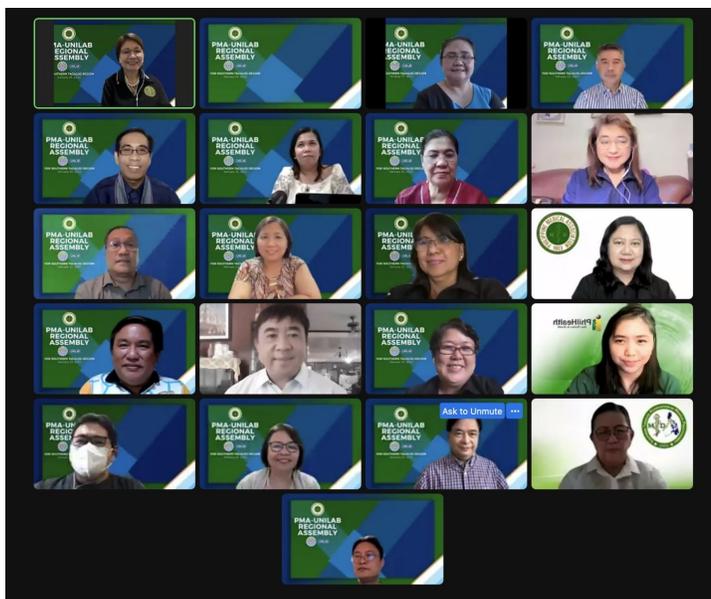
## Southern Tagalog Regional Assembly

ANGELITO BENJAMIN C. BELEN, MD

Governor, Southern Tagalog Region

The PMA UNILAB Pre-Regional Meeting and Regional Assembly for Southern Tagalog were recently held virtually last January 22 and 23, 2022. The theme for this year's assembly was "STAMP - PAG-BALANGKAS NG BAGONG BUKAS TUNGO SA PAGKAKAISA SA PAG-BANGON." Originally planned as a hybrid meeting with a face to face Pre Regional Meeting at Villa Escudero, the organizers prepared an alternate virtual program as well. The San Pablo City Medical Society was the host society for this year.

The Pre Regional started with the opening prayer by Dr. Cynthia Sanchez, a past president of SPCMS and followed by the singing of the National Anthem led by the officers of the host society. After the PMA Hymn the 2nd vice president of SPCMS, Dr. Jericho Gutierrez, acknowledged the dignitaries and guests who were present. The governor for Southern Tagalog, Dr. Angelito Benjamin C. Belen welcomed the 330 delegates from the 15 STAMP component societies, an outstanding number of attendees for a Pre Regional meet. Dr. Cristeto I. Azucena, the SPCMS President, introduced the PMA President as the main speaker. Dr. Benny P. Atienza presented a short review of the most recent activities and accomplishments of PMA including the National Immunization program, Phil Health concerns, PRC matters, update on the Medical Act of 2020,



the Anti Vape Bill and the PMA assistance to the Typhoon Odette victims among others. A lively open forum followed. Audiovisual presentations were shown by the partner UNILAB and by SPCMS which is celebrating its 75th Year Founding Anniversary. UNILAB'S PRMD Mr. Ricky Mendoza gave a cordial message to STAMP. The 1st vice president of SPCMS, Dr. Ella Loraine Guia gave the closing remarks for the first part of tonight's program.

the PMA president Dr. Benny Atienza himself! Exciting games and major raffles provided added excitement to the party.

The Regional Assembly followed the next day. There was a very astonishing 1,500 plus attendees from the beginning till the end of the Meeting that the virtual platform was not enough to accommodate everyone. A Facebook live broadcast was opened on the PMA website to give access to the others.

The second part of the Pre-Regional was the equally much awaited Fellowship Night. Hosted by the Oriental Mindoro Medical Society led by its president, Dr. Mario Augusto Lorman Goco, and together with the other component societies of STAMP, the Fellowship night party was filled with fun and surprises. Three stand up comedians brought the virtual house down with laughter and songs. The main guest of the night, actress Miss Maui Taylor, provided the piece de resistance with her live songs and interview with some male STAMP presidents including

*Southern Tagalog Regional Assembly,  
from page 8*

## WMA REVISION TO DECLARATION OF GENEVA AFFIRMING ETHICS OF THE GLOBAL MEDICAL PROFESSION

### AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

- **I WILL NOT USE** my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;
- **I MAKE THESE PROMISES** solemnly, freely, and upon my honour.



The Sunday morning activity started with a Processional. An opening prayer was led by the STAMP President Dr. Myrna Zapanta and followed by the National anthem and the PMA Hymn. The PMA Secretary General Dr. Ma. Realiza Henson acted as the master of ceremony. The Governor for Southern Tagalog, Dr. Angelito Benjamin C. Belen, welcomed all the guests in the vernacular. He mentioned another meaning to the letters P-M-A as follows: P- PANGINOON, M- MANG-GAGAMOT and A- ALAY SA KAPWA. Mr. Ricky Mendoza presented UNILAB'S cordial greetings as PMA's partner to the Regional Assembly. Dr. Ma. Janetth Serrano, the PMA CPD Commissioner gave a very clear discussion of the PMA's Continuing Professional Development program. The host society president then gave the introduction of the PMA president. Dr. Benny Atienza presented a much more comprehensive discussion of the current state of the PMA when he expounded on the topics he touched on the previous night. A very engaging open forum centered mostly on concerns about PhilHealth issues ensued.

The afternoon scientific sessions were equally well attended. Dr. Christina Quinones Marquez, the president of Laguna Medical Society, did a remarkable job of acting as emcee. The first lecture was by Dr. Nina C. Gloriani, the Head of the Vaccine Development Expert Panel. She gave an up to date presentation of the government's immunization program and Viruses of Concern as well. The second speaker was Dr. Mark Kristoffer U. Pasayan who gave Vaccine Development Expert Panel. She gave an up to date presentation of the government's immunization program and Viruses of Concern as well. The second speaker was Dr. Mark Kristoffer U. Pasayan who gave an update on COVID19 management. Dr. Amelita C. Brillantes spoke on Hypertension and Heart Failure: a Spectrum of Disease. The third speaker was the PMA environmentalist and Governor for Southern Tagalog, Dr. Angelito Benjamin C. Belen, who presented the PMA Eco friendly Clinic and Hospital. The fifth lecture was on

Optimizing Stroke Recovery by Dr. Allan A. Belen, a Neurologist-Psychiatrist from San Pablo City. The last lecture was an eye opener on Medico Legal Problems during the COVID19 Pandemic, ably discussed by the well renowned medical-legal expert, Atty. Antonio Reboza MD. The following open forum was very productive and enlightening and there were so many questions that due to time constraints those that were not answered were sent by email to the respective resource persons. The very successful Regional Assembly was put to a close by the 1st Vice President of SPCMS, Dr. Ella Loraine Guia.



## TeleHealth in the the Time of Covid-19

CHELSEA ELIZABETH SAMSON, MD<sup>1</sup>  
BLANQUITA GUTIERREZ-ROQUE, MD<sup>2</sup>



**Tessa, a housewife, is a 38 year-old mother of two. Last January, her 16 year-old son, Anton, came down with a dry cough and some congestion. That night, he spiked a low-grade fever. Not knowing what to do and afraid of exposing herself to COVID-19, she went online to find options.**

Over the years, technology has revolutionized the way we've lived our lives. It has enabled us to change how we entertain ourselves, meet each other, and consume all types of media. More importantly, it's also made large strides in scientific advancements and medical innovation. When the global pandemic hit in 2020, technology was quickly adapted to identify and sequence the virus and share it with scientists all over the world. It enabled the creation of vaccines, the tracking and tracing of COVID-19 patients, and even the real-time dissemination of global updates and information.

When our own country had its first COVID-19 case last March 2020, it was a moment that triggered a series of events that led the Philippine healthcare system close to the brink of collapse. Many of our hospitals were operating beyond capacity, outpatient clinics and centers were closed, and healthcare workers who served at various frontlines were pushed to burnout; constantly at the risk of contracting an unknown and highly-evolving virus. On the flip side, Filipinos all of a sudden were left bereft and without access to their usual health access points to provide them care, advice and essential medicines for their conditions.

Aside from COVID-19, the pandemic also hampered the care of non-communicable and chronic conditions such as Hypertension, Diabetes, and Asthma - all among the top causes of morbidity and mortality in our country; as well as urgent infectious diseases that remain prevalent including tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs. Pain points around reach and continuity of care that have been left ignored as simply part of the status quo - poor and time-consuming access, doctor:patient ratio disparity, high out-of-pocket costs - were all suddenly brought sharply into focus.

Technology, once again, filled in that gap. Both government and private sectors quickly pivoted to innovate platforms to provide accessible and quality healthcare services for all - and this was made possible through telemedicine.

Telemedicine, or the way in which medical care is provided to a patient in a remote way using two-way voice or visual and video communication, has allowed Filipinos to see that there are different ways of accessing and being provided care in a safe, convenient, and reliable way. Beyond the basics of it, the potentials of telemedicine are wide and far reaching, holding promise in the way we prevent, treat, and manage health conditions. Additionally, it provides the opportunity to foster health education, strengthen health program implementations and most radically, change the health-seeking behaviours of individuals.

A recent consumer study done in 2021 showed that during the

pandemic, there was a 300% increase in remote consultations alone. Further, acceptance of digital health advancements can be reflected in the increasing number of emerging digital health companies and the resulting downloads of telehealth platforms and mobile apps. Lastly, the same consumer insight study tells us that digital health will be a standard part of healthcare moving forward, showing that 36% of consumers will actually continue to consult via digital channels, post-COVID. Digital health is here to stay.

**Tessa was able to download a mobile app and was promptly able to set a consultation for her son, Anton. The physician was quickly able to elaborate on a possible diagnosis, provide medication, and order diagnostics. In that moment, with one tap, Tessa finally felt empowered to get the help she needed for herself and for her loved ones.**

**BE PART OF HEALTHNOW**

A special service from HealthNow to all members of the Philippine Medical Association until May 31, 2022.

To join:

1. Please email your name and PMA number to [partners@healthnow.ph](mailto:partners@healthnow.ph) to avail of an exclusive 3 months' free use of the HealthNow platform.
2. You may scan the QR Code or go to [bit.ly/HNPartnerSite](https://bit.ly/HNPartnerSite) for more details.

IN COOPERATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**(Left) Dr. Chelsea Elizabeth Samson<sup>1</sup>** (Chief Business and Medical Affairs Officer) and **(Right) Dr. Blanquita Gutierrez-Roque<sup>2</sup>** (Partner Growth Manager) are with HealthNow, a joint venture between Ayala Health and 917 Ventures, Globe's corporate incubator. HealthNow is an integrator platform that brings health and care to every Filipino in one tap, offering simple and easy access to teleconsultations, online medicine ordering and delivery and later on in the year, diagnostic services both in-setting and through home care. To know more and join our community, please log on to <https://provider.healthnow.ph/>

# 115<sup>th</sup> PMA Annual Convention & Scientific Meetings

May 19-22, 2022



**PMA:**  
“Nagkakaisa Sa Pagbangon”



## 15 PRC-PMA CPD Units

### To Register:

### Topic Highlights:

- STEP 1** Go to the PMA website and click the event banner.  
<https://www.philippinemedicalassociation.org>
- STEP 2** Read PMA 115<sup>th</sup> PMA Annual Convention and Scientific Meetings Registration Procedure:

To proceed with your registration, the registrant must settle first the convention fee because a copy of the proof of payment, (either deposit, payment or bank transfer slip) is needed in order to proceed with your registration. Please see registration fees below:

REGISTRATION FEES		
		Using Gcash payment mode
PMA Life / Emeritus Member	FREE	FREE
PMA Regular Member	Php 1000.00	Php 1020.00
PMA Non Member	Php 1500.00	Php 1530.00
Allied Health Professional	Php 500.00	Php 510.00
Medical Student	Php 500.00	Php 510.00

For Gcash payments there will be an additional 2%.  
Gcash facilities will be available by February 14, 2022.

For over-the-counter, on-line banking – fund transfer, please see the list of banks below.

ACCOUNT NAME	PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION INC.
BANK	ACCOUNT NO.
Unionbank	000-480-001-984
BDO	004-050-000-124
PNB	105-510-034-601

- Philhealth Hour
- FDA Hour
- PRC Hour
- WMA Hour
- Covid-19 Vaccines Update
- Mental Health
- Research
- Current Management of Covid-19
- The Effects of Social Media
- Effects of Exercise on Immunity
- Environmental Impact of Community Waste During Pandemic
- Let's Clean the Air: Nicotine Reduction and Smoking - Is There any Difference?
- Health and Psychological Issues in Gender Transition and Gender Affirmation Surgery
- Holistic Approach to Beauty in times of Pandemic
- Performance Enhancement in Sports
- Cancer Prevention and Detection: Updates on New technologies in Lung Cancer and Surgical Breast Cancer Management



# COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, PMA Building, North Avenue Quezon City 1105  
www.philippinemedicalassociation.org • philmedas@yahoo.com • Tel: (02) 8929-7361, 8926-6366, 8929-6366 • Fax: (02) 8929-6951

presents the

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