



# PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY, INC.

*A Specialty Division of PMA*

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## POSITION STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY ON JUST AND APPROPRIATE MEDICAL AND PROFESSIONAL FEES IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

### PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2026

The Philippine Pediatric Society affirms that the determination and adjustment of medical and professional fees charged by medical practitioners to private patients are guided by the core principles of **“ethics, professionalism, social justice, and patient-centered care.”**

The Philippine Pediatric Society recognizes that physicians are entitled to a **“fair and reasonable compensation”** reflective of their “training, expertise, degree of involvement, responsibility and provision of quality care”. Consideration and collection of medical or professional fees must be balanced with “inflation, increasing costs of maintaining medical practice, advances in medical knowledge and technology needed to provide care, expanded scope or complexity of healthcare services, and the challenges to sustainability of safe pediatric practice”.

The Philippine Pediatric Society emphasizes the **“welfare of the child remains paramount”** and medical or professional fees must never compromise access to essential pediatric care, particularly for the vulnerable populations. Pediatricians are enjoined to practice compassion, transparency and sensitivity to socioeconomic circumstances while upholding the principles of equity and proportionality in every pediatric encounter.

The Philippine Pediatric Society **strongly discourages** exploitative, arbitrary, or coercive fee charging. Open communication regarding its computation, adherence to institutional policies and compliance with national laws and ethical standards of practice are essential.

Medical or professional fees form **only a part** of the total healthcare costs. No single consolidated nor percentage for all healthcare spending data are published on standard professional or medical fees. The Philippines National Health Expenditure Survey (NHES) conducted under the Department of Health in 2021 stated that “professional fees accounted for about **27%** of total charges in inpatient visits” based on provider records.<sup>1</sup> Based on available PhilHealth records in 2008-2009, as well as data from the Philippine Health Systems Review in 2011, professional fees comprised **17-24%** of total PhilHealth benefit payments for the period.<sup>2,3</sup> More recent data based on national health accounts and national health expenditure patterns show, PhilHealth provides a cap for many professional fees, with doctors’ fees comprising only **9%** of the out-of-pocket health spending of our countrymen.



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The **bigger share** of the expenditure pie comes from hospital charges (facility fees and room rates), laboratory tests/diagnostics, medications/ medical supplies, procedures/equipment administrative and operational expenses. Likewise, rising healthcare costs are “largely systemic driven by inflation, currency instability, rising costs of medicines and equipment, cost of compliance with national and international safety, accreditation and regulatory standards and rising administrative and documentation requirements.

Pinning medical or professional fees as primary levers that drive healthcare costs beyond the means of the general population may **undermine** public trust in the medical profession.

It can erode confidence, diminish professional morale and distract from the necessary reforms urgently needed in health financing and governance. It can also violate justice by misplacing blame, veracity by misrepresenting facts and professional respect by creating a space of doubt and disgruntlement.

Rest assured, the Philippine Pediatric Society is committed to supporting all government efforts to provide “**universal, affordable, available and sustainable**” basic and advanced healthcare services to all children. To this end, the Philippine Pediatric Society is committed to “**develop and implement guidelines that will standardize fees** for pediatric healthcare services nationwide using time-tested ethical, professional and economic guideposts.

The Philippine Pediatric Society will continue to work with all healthcare organizations to create a **robust healthcare system** including the full implementation of universal health care (UHC) and expanded PhilHealth pediatric packages that will protect patients without penalizing physicians.

The Philippine Pediatric Society is **one** with the vision that professional and ethical healthcare is anchored on financial stability, transparent governance and long-term sustainability.

### References:

December 29, 2025

1. Philippines National Health Expenditure Survey. Round 1 Analytical Report. November 2021

2. Philippine Health Insurance Reports 2008-2009. philhealth.gov.ph

3. Philippines Health System Review 2011. Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Health Systems in Transition. Vol. 1 No.2 2011

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