

COST ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS ADMITTED FOR ACUTE GASTROENTERITIS IN A TERTIARY MEDICAL CENTER AS BASIS FOR PHILHEALTH FINANCING

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INTRODUCTION

Hospitalization for diarrhea can pose a significant burden to health systems and households. A financial cost analysis of hospitalization due to acute gastroenteritis has yet to be investigated. This will be essential to the review of PhilHealth benefit package for this disease.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the adequacy of the PhilHealth coverage among hospitalized pediatric patients with acute gastroenteritis (AGE) in a tertiary medical center from January 2016 to December 2019.

METHODS: Retrospective Descriptive Study

RESULTS

A total of 37 patients were included in the study. Patients admitted with moderate signs of dehydration showed the highest cost of hospitalization incurred, amounting to Php 27,103.34. The percentage of expenses incurred during hospitalization was mainly due to laboratories which is 41% of the total average cost. Only 8% were sufficiently covered by PhilHealth, and 82.3% of the patients incurred out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure.

CONCLUSION

Affected families of patients admitted due to AGE still incur OOP expenditure despite having PhilHealth benefits.

RECOMMENDATION

A prospective multicenter study, covering an expanded age group for a larger sample size, including AGE with co-morbidities for more representative results, is therefore recommended.

Keywords: Acute gastroenteritis, out of pocket expenditure, cost analysis

