

Universal Health Care

“The state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost” (1987 Philippine Constitution, Article 13 Section 2) - Thus proclaimed by our government.

The WHO has enumerated several ways to attain the health related millennium development goals of our country which include; improvement of conditions of daily life, addressing the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources, measurement of problem, evaluation of action, expanding knowledge base, development of human resource along social determinants of health. President Benigno Simeon Aquino has adopted his Health Agenda based on:

Universal Health Care (UHC)

Enrollment of poorest of the poor families

Support to Primary Care

Strengthening local hospitals.

Universal Health Care (*Kalusugan Pangkalahatan*) hopes to achieve by 2016: Universal Phil-Health coverage, improved access to modern health facilities, meeting the MDG targets, increased savings from lower healthcare costs, Increase productivity and higher life expectancy of future generations.

In line with this, the hospital is lucky for being chosen one of the accredited health training centers in the Philippines, specifically in Northern Philippines. Its facilities are being upgraded including the construction of newer edifices with an increased bed capacity. Its medical consultancy continues to improve as it attracts the best and the brightest minds in the region. Several pieces of equipment are being replaced and upgraded. The latter quarter of 2012 saw the first kidney transplantation in the region; whereby it is expected soon to be the kidney transplant center in North Philippines. Several projects are in the pipe including the establishment of the Cancer Center of the hospital, the Minimally invasive surgery unit. These are just some of the recent developments in the hospital which addresses one of the objectives of the *Kalusugan Pangkalahatan* of President Benigno Aquino, “of ensuring that families have sustainable access to modern health care facilities and services.” Thus, the people do not need to travel to Metro Manila to avail of the best highly specialized care. Even in the recent 2nd

Annual Conference of the Philippine Society of Medical Specialists, Inc., the role of the government specialist physician as purveyor of quality care is being enhanced and promoted as Standard for Health Care Delivery.

Health Secretary Ona, further claim that the UHC of President Aquino will provide the highest possible quality of health care that is accessible, efficient, equitably distributed, adequately funded and fairly financed while appropriately used by an informed and empowered public. According to him, “This program involves providing adequate resources: health human resources, health facilities, and health financing.” Thus, the hospital’s busy upgrading of all health resources. Further, the hospital formalized the development of its Research and Training Service to set quality training standards. Acknowledging the help of the secretary and even political personalities to build a quality health center is also in order. We thank them all. Not to be left behind is also the focus on primary care. The hospital is improving its outpatient services and the establishment of its department of Family Medicine to assist in addressing common medical problems before they bloom into serious cases. The hospital is also one in extending best wishes for the 3rd Biennial Conference of the ASEAN Regional Primary Care Conference (ARPaC) on March 6-9, 2013 at PICC as the Philippines is the host. We need all sectors of our health institution to support one another to truly become relevant servants to our people and deliver the highest quality care.



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