Makati Diamond Residences 17 October 2025

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Pharma Healthcare Forum 2025

"Advancing Health for All: Building a Stronger Nation Through Improved Access to Medicines"

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Challenges of an average Filipino minimum wage worker



ONSET OF ILLNESS

- Daily wage: ₱695
- Budget consumed by essentials —food, electricity, water
- No disposable income for medical check-ups or medicines



BARRIERS TO ACCESS

- Seeking care disrupts daily work and income
- Barangay health centers overwhelmed and overcrowded
- Limited availability of essential medicines



GAPS IN HOLISTIC HEALTHCARE

- Reliance on whatever health solutions are accessible
- Government programs constrained by regulatory limitations



CYCLE REPEATS

- Delay in seeking care
- No one gets better

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Ateneo study highlights workforce hurdles to Universal Health Care in the Philippines

22 May 2025

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Despite being a top exporter of healthcare professionals, the Philippines faces a chronic shortage of nurses and physicians. Also, many health graduates in the country are unprepared for real-world public health work. Government primary care facilities and hospitals struggle to hire sufficient staff due to budget and policy barriers, while private hospitals struggle to keep their staff due to fiscal constraints.

These findings, published recently in the international journal *Human Resources for Health* by Ateneo de Manila University researchers, are major hurdles to the implementation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the country.

Recent News

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The Manila Times

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News > Nation

Healthcare costs in the Philippines seen to surge by 18 percent

By Allen Limos September 16, 2025 Resize

Latest Stories

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Centeno tops Amit,

MEDICAL costs in the Philippines are projected to rise by 18.3 percent by the end of 2025, the highest increase in Asia, a survey conducted by WTW Global Medical Trends showed.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that per capita healthcare spending reached P12,751 in 2024, up 18 percent from the previous year, signaling higher out-of-pocket expenses for many Filipinos.

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"Patients unable to obtain complete form of healthcare needed for full recovery."

This is what the Philippine healthcare system looks like.

"Patients shoulder huge fees out of pocket."

"Traditional procurement channels move slowly."

"Approval process for procurement stretches over months, even years."

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"The question is not whether we can improve the outcomes. The question is how quickly we can reinforce the value chain of the investment to ensure that the end-users are able to benefit from it."

45%

Healthcare expenses (Out of pocket)

Filipino families still shoulder 45% of the total healthcare expenses directly from their pockets.

89% vs. 61%

Philippines — United States

Lung Cancer Patients

For lung cancer, 89% of Filipino patients die from their disease compared to a much more scaled down number of 61% in the US.







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About Us

"We are building new pathways to bridge these gaps."

Philippine Pharma Procurement, Inc. (PPPI), formerly known as PITC Pharma, Inc. (PPI), is a **government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC)** under the **Department of Trade and Industry**.

PPPI was created in response to a **joint directive from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Health (DOH)** to implement strategic measures aimed at **reducing medicine prices**—including undertaking importation.

In 2014, PPPI formally amended its name and primary purpose to reflect its expanded mandate under **Republic Act No. 9502**.

This amendment emphasized PPPI's role in the **procurement, sourcing, and marketing of medicines and vaccines**, among other health-related products, through a common facility for pooled procurement.

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PPPI bridges the local and global medicine supply chains and the needs of the Philippine healthcare.

₱2,000 vs. **~₱250**

*private pharmacies

Insulin vials

Delivered the same products to government hospitals through streamlined procurement processes and reliable partnerships with trusted suppliers.

35 private hospitals

Distributed Remdesivir to 35 private hospitals at prices significantly lower than neighboring countries.

42% approved contract budgets

Generated savings of up to 42% on approved contract budgets for 11 local government units and 37 DOH retained hospitals through the Central Medicine Store program.

COMING SOON

Botika at Bakuna para sa Mamamayan

Relaunching Botika at Bakuna para sa Mamayan to create a nationwide network of affordable medicine outlets

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Areas for growth

> Before a medicine can be procured, it must first secure registration. Once registered, it undergoes a one-time evaluation by the HTAC. If approved, it is included in the Philippine National Formulary.





Policy Reforms

> We need a way to mirror what our neighboring countries already do. We should recognize that regulatory caution must be balanced against therapeutic urgency.



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They've built systems that can say "yes" responsibly, while still maintaining strict adherence to protocols.



Singapore created fast-tracks breakthrough therapies



Thailand allows rapid procurement during health emergencies



Australia grants provisional approval for high-need conditions



Indonesia has streamlined approvals for generic drugs

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Opportunities for inclusive integration



- expanding partnerships with countries that recognize WHO-prequalified medicines
- removing layers of reviews for treatments targeting high-mortality diseases
- ensuring low-margin costs for medicines to ease the financial burden on Filipino families
- advocating the faster expansion of the official list of medicine available for procurement.

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We are not proposing to abandon oversight.

We’re proposing to make oversight inclusive and responsive to patient needs through a whole of government approach.

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Current and future collaborations





















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"Access requires ensuring that medical breakthroughs benefit all citizens...

...In the Philippines, nearly 45% of healthcare spending still comes out-of-pocket. We must bring that number down to ensure more equitable and affordable care for all."

Path Forward

We will need the help of everyone in the healthcare industry in setting up a more responsive and compassionate procurement while maintaining appropriate oversight.

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"Families don't face impossible choices between medicine and basic needs"

This is what the future of the Philippine healthcare system should look like.

"Procurement prioritizes patient outcomes over procedural perfectionism."

"Doctors have the tools they need to practice modern medicine effectively."

"No Filipino will have to be forced to wait long lines"

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Thank you!

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