



Health Care



RESPONSIVE PRIVATE HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (ROPHESPAG)

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....

Date: 18th June, 2019

TO: All Media Houses

The above named association is a group of private health care service providers consisting of accredited and credentialed facilities namely; pharmaceutical outlets and companies, hospitals, clinics, maternity homes, investigation and imaging companies throughout the country.

Members of this association have identified salient and disturbing problems gravely affecting their operations under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) as follows;

DELAYED PAYMENTS: The most recent payment received by health service providers under the scheme was for the month of July, 2018 leaving a huge debt gap of between nine (9) to ten (10) months contrary to reports by the NHIA of having paid a bigger chunk leaving a debt gap of just five (5) months. There are also isolated cases of indebtedness of over a year with some facilities. This is a flagrant contravention of the agreement between health service providers and the scheme which clearly spells out that, service providers have within three (3) months to submit claims to the authority/scheme and the authority/scheme has equally within three (3) months to vet and pay the claims.

In effect, many service providers are in court for defaulting in paying their suppliers, bank loans and overdrafts, honouring tax obligations to GRA, non payment of SSNIT contributions.

TARRIF REVIEW: Consequent to the removal of 17.5% VAT on selected imported medicines, the new operational price list was slashed down by 30% effective 1st July, 2018.

Unfortunately, this move by the Ministry of Health woefully failed to provide the intended relief on importations. It has rather exacerbated the woes of service providers as prices on the market have far outrun the authorised tariffs by between 45% to 70% due to other militating factors which were not considered in the review. For example;

- I. Amoxicillin+Clavulanic Acid tablet is supplied at GH19.00, NHIS pays GH13.02p
- II. Artemether+Lumefantrine tablet is supplied at GH4.70p, NHIS pays GH2.65p
- III. Salbutamol Inhaler is supplied at GH21.55p, NHIS pays GH12.60p

In reference to our vehement disapproval of the new tariff effected on July 1 as unrealistic as it fails to ameliorate the quality of service, providers are forced to work with it as no review has been attempted to date.

With reference to the ACT 852 section 34, subsections 1 to 3 in relation to tariff review and section 101 subsections 1 to 3, section 36 subsections 1 to 8 emphasises claims payment and section 37 also outlines provider payment system.

Particular emphasis on the contract agreement “the NHIA will make payments within ninety(90) days of receipt of a claim unless written notice of a dispute or discrepancy is furnished the provider within thirty(30) days of receipt of the claim”

We are therefore by this press release demanding the payment of all arrears from August, 2018 to March, 2019 as well as arrears of over twelve(12) months in some cases and with immediate effect, the unrealistic tarrifson the new operational price list should be reviewed.

We wouldurgeGovernment, Ministry of Health,Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, the NHIA and all stakeholders to treat this issue with the utmost urgency it deserves to pre-empt any imminent action from service providers.

Joseph Christian Amuah



Executive Director
(ROPHESPAG)

Cc:

**THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
MINISTER OF HEALTH
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GHANA
ALL STAKEHOLDERS**