

Advocacy involvement of cutting through red tape



TOUCHED BY MAX, INC.

ROD PADUA
Touched By Max, Inc.
PHILIPPINES



“arm yourselves with the correct information, be passionate and unrelenting, and align with bigger groups”

Briefer

- The Gleevec International Patient Assistance Program (GIPAP) which was in existence since 2006, was replaced by Novartis Philippines' Novartis Oncology Access (NOA) program and the OATH (???) in later years. While getting the drug from GIPAP was basically totally free, NOA and OATH introduced graduated, partially subsidized schemes.
- Subsequently, in 2017, the Max Foundation took over and resurrected GIPAP through the MAX Access Solution (MAS).

Briefer

- However, the time period coincided with the new administration of the newly-elected Philippine President at the time, and his Cabinet wanted to raise revenues for the government and decided to impose VAT taxes on donated drugs. The amount to be paid was U\$ 550,000 annually.

Briefer

- There was no way for TBM to pay this amount and so Max paid for it. This happened one more time the following year and so TBM decided something must be done.
- TBM wrote several letters to supposedly “the right people” in the decision-making core of the government, but to no avail. These letter-requests fell on deaf ears.

Briefer



- On Valentines Day 2019, the new President signed into law the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA), which TBM lobbied for, as member of the bigger Cancer Coalition of the Philippines.



A FRONT AGAINST CANCER The leaders of the coalition link arms while the members are at their backs



ANO ANG NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT (NICCA)?

Ang **NICCA (R.A. 11215)** ay batas na naglalayong palawigin at pagbutihin ang mga serbisyong may kinalaman sa pag-iwas at pagkontrol sa kanser upang ang mga serbisyong ito ay maging mas abot-kamay at mas abot-kaya ng mamamayang Pilipino, lalo na sa mas nangangailangan nating mga kababayan.

S. No. 1850
H. No. 8636

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress

Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand eighteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11215]

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Integrated Cancer Control Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Recognizing that cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the Philippines, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which includes the strengthening of

The DOH may solicit and receive donations which shall form part of the Fund and such donations shall be exempt from income or donor's tax and all other taxes, fees and charges imposed by the government. Likewise, fund raising activities may be conducted by the Council and the proceeds of which shall accrue to the Fund and shall be exempt from any and all taxes.

What is an IRR?



PhilSA



Implementing Rules and Regulations, or IRR, operationalize the spirit and aspirations embodied in the law. It stipulates **“how”** the provisions of the law should be implemented or executed.

Despite this, the IRR is merely a tool which implements the law. As such, it cannot expand the scope of the law it seeks to implement, nor can it contradict the same.



“

We appeal to our legislators that as mandated in the law, that a budgetary line item and adequate funding for the implementation of the programs under the National Integrated Cancer Control Act be institutionalized in the Government Appropriations Act.

CANCER COALITION OF THE PHILIPPINES



R.A 11215
NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT
 (NICCA)
Congresswoman Chiqui Roa-Puno
 Principal Author and Sponsor

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS
 SIGNED
 AUGUST 8, 2019

- Access to quality and affordable care for patients and survivors of all cancers, in all stages, and from all ages.
- Establishment of Cancer Assistance Fund.
- Provisions for Supportive Care Medicines, Palliative Care and Pain Management Medicines.
- Funding for Cancer Research
- Creation of a Cancer Registry
- Establishment of Philippine Cancer Center.
- Expansion of Philhealth package for Filipinos with cancer

Source of picture: Inquirer.net

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After 6 months of lobbying, attending public consultations, the IRR was signed.

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR)
OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11215, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT**

Pursuant to the mandate of the Department of Health to administer and implement the provisions of the National Integrated Cancer Control Act, the following Rules and Regulations are hereby promulgated to effectively implement the provisions of the Republic Act No. 11215, **“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**:

The DOH may solicit and receive donations which shall form part of the Fund. Such donations from both local and foreign shall be exempt from income or donor’s tax and all other taxes, fees and charges imposed by the government. Likewise, fund-raising activities may be conducted by the Council and the proceeds of which shall accrue to the Fund and shall be exempt from any and all taxes.

In conclusion, ...

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For the last 2 years, TBM has not been levied any tax.

