

Quezon City provides wider access to free medicines

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WITH stricter health protocols enforced in Quezon City amid a recent surge in new Covid-19 cases, the Quezon City Council has pushed for expanded access to free medicines which would now include medications for cardiovascular, chronic obstructive pulmonary or respiratory diseases.

“The situation is tough right now, especially with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. By expanding the scope of our existing ordinances on free medicines, we can hopefully lift some burden off the shoulders of our people,” Quezon City Councilor Mikey Belmonte said.

With the broader scope of the “Expanded Free Medicine to Citizens of Quezon City of 2020,” Blue Medical Card holders now have free access to medicines that will help combat hypertension, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary or respiratory disease, allergies, gout, vertigo, and low calcium levels, in addition to those previously covered by SP 2619 of 2017 and SP 2892 of 2019.

“We saw how big the impact of these two ordinances was on the people. By adding more medicines to the list, we are hoping to help them even more. It’s all about prioritizing their health and welfare,” Belmonte pointed out.

Residents and senior citizens who can present prescriptions issued by licensed medical practitioners may then receive the necessary pharmaceutical drugs for different respiratory, cardiovascular, and chronic pulmonary diseases.

Furthermore, other doctor-prescribed medicines that can help maintain healthy blood pressure and sugar levels, which were not originally specified in SP 2829 of 2019, will be added to the list.

The councilor also mentioned that the Free Medicine Monitoring Task Force, which will be spearheaded by the Barangay Health Centers, with the aid of the Quezon City Health Department, Office of Senior Citizen’s Affairs, and Office of the City Mayor, will ensure that these doctor-prescribed drugs will reach those who are really in need.