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My Ref. No ERHK /GF - 053

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EASTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
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KOFORIDUA, E/R.  
GHANA – WEST AFRICA.

15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

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## ALL MEDIA HOUSES

### REJOINDER:

#### “EASTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL DETAINS 246 PATIENTS FOR FAILURE TO SETTLE MEDICAL BILLS”

Management of the Eastern Regional Hospital in Koforidua has sighted a publication in the Tuesday, March 16 2021 Edition of the Daily Graphic Newspaper (Page 48; back page) with the above mentioned caption. The first paragraph of the publication reads;

**“Some 246 patients of the Eastern Regional Hospital in Koforidua, who have been treated of their ailments and have recovered, are being detained for their failure to settle their medical bills totalling GH¢281,092” and wishes to respond as follows:**

- i. The 246 patients quoted in the newspaper report was a cumulative figure of persons recorded in 2020 (January to December) and discussed at the Annual Performance Review Meeting who could either not pay all or part of their bills after discharge.
- ii. Such persons after discharge are made to write an undertaking after which they leave the hospital premises for their homes.
- iii. Those who were identified as paupers or persons in the exempt category were enrolled onto the National Health Insurance Scheme by the Medical Social Workers before they left the hospital
- iv. Eventually some of these clients honour their bills over time but a many of them are unable to do so.

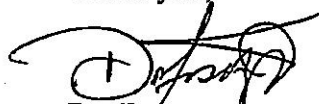
The issue of non-payment of bills came up during a Press Soiree after the Hospital's Annual Performance Review held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. In his briefing to the Press, the Medical Director (Dr. Arko Akoto – Ampaw) indicated that the number of insurance card bearers patronizing the hospital declined from 84% in 2019 to 80.6% in 2020. This had a corresponding effect with more persons making out of pocket payments for health care. Some persons belonging to this category are vulnerable in that, at a point in time they are unable to settle their bills.

He therefore implored the general public to patronize the Health Insurance Scheme since it was viable and worked and not wait until they are unwell since they may not have the needed resources to make the necessary payments.

**We wish to state emphatically that the 246 persons are not being kept in the hospital for failure to pay their bills and we do not even have the space to contain such numbers in addition to the patients on admission.**

We wish to reiterate that the NHIS works and that our cherished clients should continue to patronize their service.

Thank you,



**Dr. Forster Amponsah-Manu**  
**Clinical Director**