



Reference: Follow up Circular on PMB Review
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CIRCULAR 1 OF 2017 Follow up on Circular 83 of 2016 on PMB review

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) in Circular 83 of 2016 on the Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMB) review, outlined the PMB review process. There have been several calls for clarification of the processes contained in the Circular. This Circular seeks to provide further clarification mainly under the following headings.

1. The PMB review process and deadlines.
2. The provision of inputs by stakeholders and the nomination of individuals to serve on the various committees.

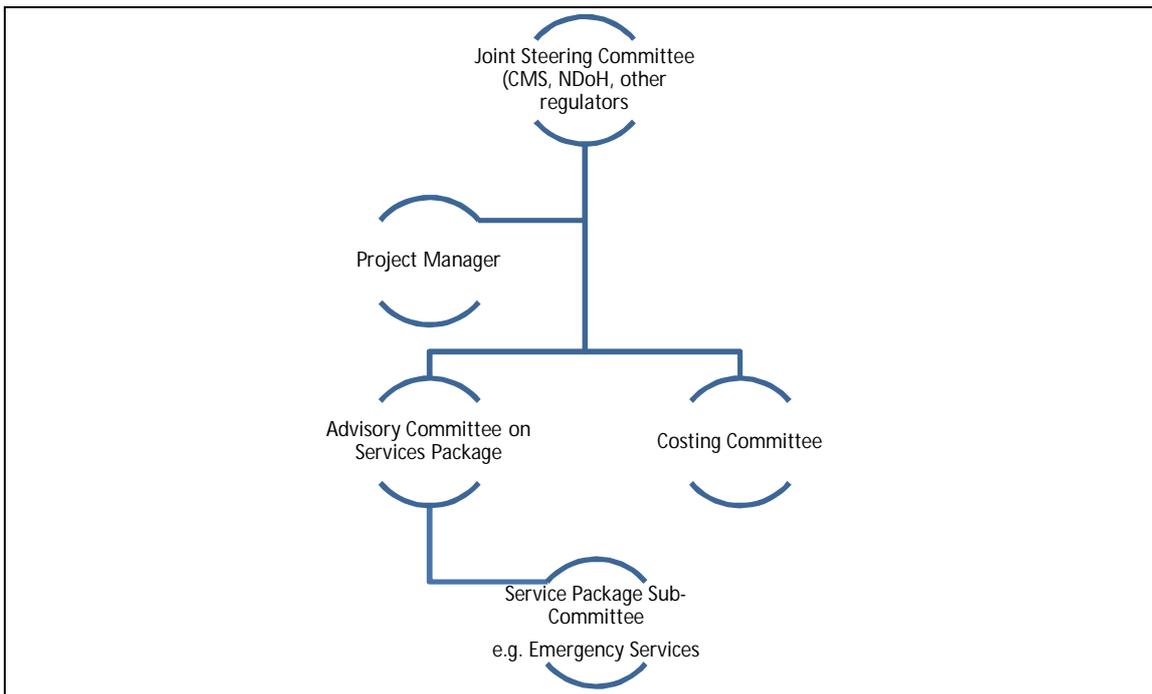
The PMB review process and deadlines:

The PMB review process will be guided by the Joint Steering Committee comprising of the Council for Medical Schemes; the National Department of Health; and other regulators. Two technical committees will be established, i.e. the Clinical Advisory Committee that will deal with the services package, and the Costing Committee that will deal with costing of the services package. The Clinical Advisory Committee will be responsible for defining a new PMB service package while the costing committee will be responsible for costing the new service package. The Clinical Advisory Committee will have sub-committees that will deal with specific components of the new service package. The main role of the Clinical Advisory Committee in the PMB Review process is to:

- Consider all the inputs from stakeholders including the sub-committees regarding the conceptual, regulatory and operational challenges related to the current PMBs.
- Consider the basket of primary healthcare and hospital level services as proposed in the concept document.
- Specify a comprehensive set of out-of-hospital and in-hospital essential healthcare benefits.
- Identify specific interventions that should be put in place to ensure that the specified healthcare benefits can be provided on a sustainable basis.
- Identify measures that are required to ensure that the specified healthcare benefits are affordable.
- Liaise with the Costing Committee on a regular basis to achieve the above.
- Recommend to the Joint Steering Committee regarding the specified, affordable and sustainable healthcare benefit package.

The Joint Steering Committee will subsequently consider this draft after receiving comments from all key stakeholders, and recommend to the Council for endorsement. The final draft document will then be submitted to the Minister for approval. The process of inputs and submissions to the PMB review process will remain open until an initial draft is published for final stakeholder comments.

Figure1: PMB Review governance structure



The provision of inputs by Stakeholders and the nomination of individuals to serve on the various committees

Stakeholders are requested to make inputs on the envisioned benefits package as stipulated in the consultative document attached to Circular 83 of 2016, and to highlight challenges with the current package, that might impact on the new benefits

package. Specific inputs on the contents of the envisioned new service packages will be made to the technical committees once they have been established. New draft service packages will be published for further inputs by stakeholders once the specific technical committees have proposed a new package to the Joint Steering Committee. The inputs by stakeholders will be by way of written and oral representations to the sub-committees.

With regards to serving on the various sub-committees, the submission of CVs and nomination of individuals to serve on the various technical committees and sub-committees, are welcomed from various stakeholders. This process is expected to be completed by the end of February 2017. This would enable the appointment and establishment of the various technical committees and sub-committees by 31 March 2017. The appointment of individuals to serve on these committees will be based on:

- Experience
- Qualification
- Fields of specialisation
- Type of service package
- Equity
- Representativity
- Committee size
- Relevance of nominee to the PMB review process

The intention of Circular 83 of 2016 was to outline the journey and vision of the CMS as well as to bring Stakeholders on board regarding the process thus far. The CMS, through various forums, conducted consultations with different stakeholders and presented its intention to review the current PMB package. This culminated in the publication of Circular 83 in December 2016.

Stakeholders must please note that Circular 90 of 2016 regarding the PMB benefit definition is a different process with different timelines that aims to clarify what PMB entitlements should be.

The CMS hopes that this Circular assists in clarifying the PMB review process. For further engagements, stakeholders are welcome to contact the Office at pmbreview@medicalschemes.com.



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