



CIRCULAR

Reference : Psychologists claims rejection
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CIRCULAR 34 OF 2011: REJECTION OF CLAIMS BY MEDICAL SCHEMES AND ADMINISTRATORS FROM SOME CATEGORIES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

It has been brought to the attention of the Council for Medical Schemes that some medical schemes and administrators are rejecting claims from some categories of psychologists based on a scope of practice argument. The basis for the new practice by these medical schemes is apparently a decision by the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) to implement new sub-specialty numbers for the psychology discipline with effect from 1 March 2011. This was done by the BHF as part of their activities in managing the Practice Code Numbering System (PCNS) on behalf of the Council for Medical Schemes.

Medical schemes and administrators are hereby reminded that:

- The Medical Schemes Act does not confer upon medical schemes any legislative authority or mandate to adjudicate on the scope of practice for psychologists or any other health care discipline.

- The Board of Healthcare Funders also does not have any legislative authority or mandate to determine the scope of practice for any health care discipline.
- Medical schemes cannot use the PCNS as a mechanism for determining the kinds of services that will be reimbursed under psychology or any other discipline.
- It is the responsibility of medical schemes to properly reflect benefits available to beneficiaries for psychology and all other health care disciplines in the rules of the scheme.

The scope of practice for the psychology discipline is governed by the Health Professions Act, (Act 56 of 1974) as amended and it is consequently, only the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) that is entitled to make any pronouncement on the scope of practice for psychologists and other health care professions.



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HEAD: RESEARCH AND MONITORING