CIRCULAR

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Circular 47 of 2016: Ministerial Directive on the Establishment of a Beneficiary Registry

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) would like to inform all Principal Officers of medical schemes, as well as third party medical scheme administrators that the Minister of Health has issued a directive dated 12 July 2016 wherein the CMS as the Regulator of Medical Schemes is tasked with the responsibility of collecting medical scheme member information for the purpose of:

1. Monitoring the impact of current policies, and
2. Identifying medical scheme members who access services in the public sector.

The directive invokes section 7(h) of the Medical Schemes Act, 131 of 1998, which enables Council to "perform any other functions conferred on the Council by the Minister or by this Act."

The directive requires all medical schemes, administrators and regulated private healthcare funding entities to furnish the CMS with regular updated records pertaining to the basic personal and demographic (including domicile) details of all members and their beneficiaries, but excludes information related to the medical history of medical scheme members.

We wish to assure all affected stakeholders that the method, frequency and security of provisioning of the data to the CMS will be determined in a transparent manner and in close collaboration. To this end, it is the intention of the CMS to resume collaborative workshops and sessions with all affected parties in the near future and further communication to this effect will be issued as and when arrangements have been finalised.

Attached please find the directive from the Minister of Health.

The CMS would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in the process of establishing and maintaining a central beneficiary registry.

Jaap Kugel
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15 Jul 2016

Jaap. J. Kugel
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Dear Mr. Lehutjo

CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF MEDICAL SCHMEME MEMBERS

The National Department of Health has identified the need for a central repository of medical scheme members. The Council for Medical Schemes as the regulator of medical schemes collects this information for the purpose of monitoring the impact of current policies. Additionally the DoH would need this information to indentify medical scheme members who access services in the public sector.

The National Department of Health requests all medical schemes, administrators and regulated private health care funding entities to furnish the CMS with regular updated electronic records pertaining to basic personal, demographic (including domicile) details of all members and their beneficiaries, as stored on their respective member management systems. The method, frequency and security of provisioning of the data will be determined and implemented by the CMS in close collaboration with affected stakeholders. Information related to the medical history of medical scheme members is not required.

The Ministry of Health extends our gratitude in advance to all participants as we anticipate effective advocacy, cooperation and consultation in this process in establishing and maintaining a central repository.

Kind regards

DR A MOTSOALEDI (MP)
MINISTER: HEALTH
DATE: 19/7/2016