



CIRCULAR
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Reference : Code of Conduct in respect of PMB benefits
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CIRCULAR 56: STATUS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF PMB BENEFITS AND FURTHER PMB TASK TEAM ACTIVITIES

Current status

1. The Code of Conduct (CoC) in respect of PMB benefits, which was completed by the PMB task team on 31 July 2010¹, has reference.
2. The CoC considers the appropriate conduct expected of relevant stakeholders to ensure compliance with existing PMB regulations, made in terms of the Medical Schemes Act (131 of 1998).
3. Should differences of opinion arise because of the further interpretation of the wording of the CoC, or where there may be differences between the requirements set in the CoC and the regulations, the provisions in the regulations will prevail.
4. In accordance with its mandate to protect medical scheme members and to coordinate the functioning of medical schemes, the CMS views the purpose of the CoC to clarify frequently misunderstood requirements of the PMB regulations.
5. The required conduct expressed in the CoC document will be considered by the Registrar whenever rulings concerning complaints in respect of PMB benefits are adjudicated on.
6. The requirements set by the CoC will influence the future refinement of accreditation standards of regulated entities.
7. In respect of the “payment in full” provisions of regulation 8, on which the CoC is silent, the CMS will continue to enforce the requirements stipulated in the regulations.
8. The CMS follows the interpretation given by the appeal board to the effect that “payment in full” means as per invoice, and not at scheme rate.

¹ Click [here](#) for full document: Code of Conduct in respect of PMB benefits. 31 July 2010

9. Similarly, in view of numerous rulings by the appeals committee, the chronic elements of the DTPs are part of the PMB entitlements.

Future role of the PMB task team

10. In accordance with its terms of reference, the PMB task team will be kept active, and regular meetings will be held. The task team process represents an instrument to ensure compliance and could serve as a mediation mechanism. The task team TOR and representation on the task team will be considered from time to time.
11. The purpose of the regular meetings is to discuss any breaches of the code, and to use this forum to request representatives of the respective groupings to raise the concerns with their constituencies. When concerns could not be resolved in this manner, the breaches will be channelled to the appropriate regulatory authorities.
12. New matters that have not been included in the CoC may be considered by the PMB task team and could result in a regular review of the CoC.



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