



Ref : Chronic renal dialysis

Enq : Thembekile Phaswane

Tel : 012 431 0500

Fax : 012 431 0647

Email : t.phaswane@medicalschemes.com

Date : 09 November 2010

Chronic Renal Dialysis

The Registrar's Office wish to bring to the attention of all stakeholders the latest guideline issued by the erstwhile Minister of Health, Ms Barbara Hogan, dated 03 March 2009. The guideline is not a clinical protocol but merely clarifies how a renal unit in a public sector should go about making a determination on treatment where dialysis machines are in short supply. It is worth mentioning that the treatment indicated in the guideline applies to the level of care required in the public sector facilities and cannot be said to apply to private sector facilities.

The current guideline is explicit in the differentiation of provision of dialysis between the private and the public sector and states, under the principles section, that "unlike the public sector, renal transplantation should not be the major criterion for acceptance for chronic dialysis in the private sector."

Members of medical schemes with diabetes and co-morbid conditions may be considered for long-term renal dialysis in the private sector and they should remain the responsibility of the private sector once accepted into renal dialysis programme. The Registrar's Office has noted that some medical schemes arbitrarily transfer their members to the public sector without the necessary agreement with the public sector and such members end up not enjoying legislated benefits due to limited resources in the public sector. It must be noted that one of the main objectives of the guideline is to promote public/private partnership and this objective can be realized if there is collaboration between the public and the private sectors; therefore the conduct of merely shifting members to the public sector should be ceased forthwith.

Thembekile Phaswane
Senior Manager: Complaints Adjudication