



CIRCULAR

Reference: CMS supports Universal Health Coverage Day
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Circular 72 of 2015: CMS supports Universal Health Coverage Day

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) supports Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC), celebrated globally on 12 December each year by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and more than 500 organisations worldwide. The day originated from the declaration that was signed by the United Nations on 12 December 2012, but since 12 December 2015 falls on a Saturday, the WHO celebrates UHC today.

This is particularly relevant to South Africans, as the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, today launched the much awaited White Paper on National Health Insurance (NHI) for South Africa that spells out in more detail how the country will achieve universal health coverage over the next 14 years.

According to the WHO, each year 100 million people fall into poverty because they or a family member becomes seriously ill and they have to pay for care out of their own pockets. Around one billion people worldwide cannot even access the healthcare they need, paving the way for disease outbreaks to become catastrophic epidemics.

The CMS is committed to adequate health cover for all, while it is clear that medical schemes, with years of experience of providing funding, will continue to play a role in a universal health coverage system such as the NHI.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Lehutjo', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Daniel Lehutjo
Acting CE & Registrar
Council for Medical Schemes