



COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL SCHEMES

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**To:
All medical schemes, administrators, health
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AMENDMENT TO PRESCRIBED MINIMUM BENEFIT FOR HIV-INFECTION

1. On 21 May 2004, the Minister of Health gazetted draft amendments to regulations in terms of the Medical Schemes Act, whereby the prescribed minimum benefit (PMB) for HIV infection would be extended to also include:

“Medical management and medication, including the provision of anti-retroviral therapy, to the extent that this is provided for in established national guidelines applicable in the public sector.”

2. Having had opportunity to review comments submitted in relation to these draft amendments, we will be recommending to the Minister that –
 - a. these regulations should be finalized to take effect from 1 January 2005; and
 - b. the ambit of the benefit should be explicitly extended to include ongoing monitoring for drug toxicity and effectiveness.
3. While the Minister has yet to consider these recommendations or to finalise the amendments, we would advise medical schemes to take these changes into account in benefit and budget planning.

**T P Masobe
REGISTRAR OF MEDICAL SCHEMES**

Chairperson: Prof. Nicky Padayachee Vice-Chairperson: Ms Gando Matyumza Chief Executive & Registrar: Patrick Masobe

A STATUTORY BODY ESTABLISHED IN TERMS OF THE MEDICAL SCHEMES ACT, 1998 (ACT 131 OF 1998)