



COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL SCHEMES

Private Bag X34, HATFIELD, 0028
Hadefields Block E, 1267 Pretorius Street, HATFIELD

Phone: +27 (0) 12 431-0500

Fax: +27 (0) 12 430-7644

[Http://www.medicalschemes.com](http://www.medicalschemes.com)

To:

**All medical schemes, administrators, health
care provider organizations and other
interested parties**

Enquiries: Stephen Harrison

Fax: 012 431 0629

Email: s.harrison@medicalschemes.com

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CIRCULAR 58 OF 2005

National Health Reference Price List 2006:

ADDITIONAL SCHEDULES: VERSION 2006.03

1. Version 2006.04, incorporating various amendments to existing schedules, is expected to be released early next week. Further information on these amendments will follow.
2. In the meantime, the final four NHRPL schedules (which were outstanding from version 2006.03) have now been released. This completes the release of version 2006.03. The newly released schedules are:

- a. Dental
- b. Dental therapy
- c. Registered nurses in private practice
- d. Uniform Patient Fee Schedule (UPFS).

3. Dental

- a. The dental schedule has retained the identical coding structure from 2005, but has incorporated the long descriptors, previously published as part of the SADA schedule. There is nevertheless a need for substantial revision to this structure, and a process is being put in place to effect the necessary changes for the 2007 NHRPL.

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

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- b. In general, the values on the dental schedule have increased by 4.9%. In respect of seven codes, however, which were based on a costing model in 2005, the labour rate component of the costing model has been updated with revised salary scales applicable in the public sector. The values of these codes exceed the 4.9% inflator. The affected codes are: 8101, 8102, 8104, 8145, 8176, 8189, and 8190.
- c. The overall projected financial impact of all the changes to the schedule is: **5.20%** for dental specialists; and **6.91%** for general practitioners.

4. Dental therapy

- a. The structure of the dental therapy schedule has been amended to mirror the dental codes, to the extent that procedures fall within the dental therapists' scope of practice.
- b. An inflationary increase of 4.9% has been applied to dental therapy values. Note though that, as a consequence of the revision of structure, an increment has been applied to the values of the amalgam restoration and resin restoration codes, depending on number of surfaces affected.
- c. The projection of financial impact of these changes will be released in due course.

5. Registered nurses in private practice

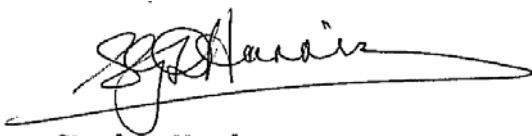
- a. The costing submission in respect of private nurses was substantially accepted by the NHRPL. However, the NHRPL was not satisfied that the procedure times allocated in the submission had sufficient empirical or historical basis. The NHRPL therefore defaulted the procedure values to the 2005 values plus an inflationary factor of 4.9%.
- b. The one area to which this concern did not apply was the time-based consultation values (because the values are then determined based on actual time spent in consultation with the patient). Based on substantial acceptability of the costing, the Review Committee therefore approved a time-based consultation structure applying the adjusted costings.
- c. Our preliminary financial impact assessment on this schedule (as a consequence of amendment to the consultation values) indicates an overall impact of **42.68%**.

- d. A new code has been included under midwifery, namely “ante-natal and post-natal exercise classes, per patient.” This is in response to requests from funders for its inclusion to allow for reimbursement, as 420 and 421 specifically exclude ante-natal or post-natal exercises. For now, the value has been set at the equivalent of code 502.

6. Uniform Patient Fee Schedule (UPFS)

- a. A revised UPFS schedule has been provided to the NHRPL by the Department of Health.
- b. Although this is included as part of the 2006 list, it is possible that provinces will implement the revised fees before 1 January 2006. We will communicate any information on implementation dates when we are advised of these by the Department of Health.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Harrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. A vertical red line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Stephen Harrison
SENIOR SPECIALIST: POLICY AND SPECIAL PROJECTS