



Reference: Beneficiary Registry
Contact person: Rozana Abdul
Tel: 012 431 0573
E-mail: r.abdul@medicalschemes.com
Date: 20 September 2016

Circular 68 of 2016: Principal Officer Workshop regarding the Beneficiary Registry

1. Introduction

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) is a statutory body established by the Medical Schemes Act, 131 of 1998 to provide regulatory supervision of private health financing through medical schemes. The CMS is responsible for overseeing the medical schemes industry in South Africa.

The CMS has been tasked by the Honourable Minister of Health to establish a central repository containing all funded (medical scheme) patients in South Africa. This activity is also listed as a Programme Performance Indicator on the National Department of Health Annual Performance Plan for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The CMS is obliged under section 7(h) of the Medical Schemes Act (MSA) to perform any functions conferred on the Council by the Minister, please see [Circular 47 of 2016](#).

The CMS wishes to collaborate with all our stakeholders to embark on this project to forge (build) effective, transparent, accountable and coherent relations without compromising the integrity, confidentiality or the ownership of such data.

In order to properly introduce the Beneficiary Registry project, the CMS intends conducting two (2) Principal Officer Workshops at the CMS Head office in Gauteng and in Cape Town respectively. Principal Officers are required to elect data officers for their respective medical scheme prior to the workshops. The Principal Officers

together with their elected data officers should attend the workshop. Hence, you are kindly required to forward the circular to the nominated data officers for their attention and confirmation of the workshop attendance.

During the workshops, CMS will present the draft data specification (this document outlines the data requirements of the registry in full), discuss the data collection process and address any security concerns relating to the collection and storage of the data. The workshop will also serve to establish the dates and terms of more in-depth technical workshops, which will be conducted with data officers and other technical staff and which will follow in October 2016.

2. Importance of the Beneficiary Registry

The Beneficiary Registry is an important project for the following reasons:

- Medical schemes will benefit from this registry as members will find it more difficult to defraud the system and belong to more than one medical scheme.
- CMS will be in a better position to answer questions related to health resource planning, such as membership by district, which is pertinent for the National Health Insurance (NHI) initiative. A future geospatial analysis can also assist the National Department of Health (NDoH) in resource planning activities.
- One beneficiary ID number will be allocated to a member for life. This will allow administrators to verify previous membership and access membership history. To this end, a unique number will be developed in close collaboration with academics in the field.
- The system will aid public healthcare facilities in avoiding fraudulent member activity (i.e. accessing state facilities claiming not to be on a medical scheme).
- The system will assist the regulator and industry in better understanding member health seeking behaviour and member movement through anti-selection analysis and benefit option analysis.
- The system will lead to more accurate risk profiling and
- Improve the quality of our Annual Statutory Returns data.

3. High Level Project Plan

This project will be implemented commencing in the current financial year (2016/17).

Planning/Analysis	August 2016 – October 2016
• Scope from NDoH and CMS	August 2016
• Data Specification and Definitions	August 2016
• Stakeholder Interaction	September – October 2016
Design	October 2016
Functional Requirements Specification	October – November 2016
Development	November 2016 – February 2016
• Develop in XRM	November – December 2016
• Deployment	January 2017
• Pilot phase	January – February 2017
Roll out	March 2017
• Data Taken On	March 2017

4. Workshop Dates

- **29th September 2016** a workshop will be held in **Gauteng** from **10:00 – 13:00**. The venue is Block A, Eco Glades 2 Office Park, 420 Witch-Hazel Avenue, Eco Park, Centurion.
- **3rd October 2016** a workshop will be held in **Cape Town** from **10:00 – 13:00**, the venue will be announced once it has been confirmed.

Please R.S.V.P to the relevant workshop before the 23rd of September 2016 by [clicking here](#).



Paresh Prema
Chairperson Beneficiary Registry Task Team
Council for Medical Schemes