



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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| Reference:      | COMMED members not to be treated as private patients                               |
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### **Press release 10 of 2017: Healthcare service providers urged to continue to treat COMMED beneficiaries as members of the scheme**

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) has become aware of a communique advising private hospitals and pharmacies to treat beneficiaries of the Community Medical Aid Scheme (COMMED) as private patients, following the placement of the scheme under provisional curatorship. This approach is incorrect, as it places beneficiaries at a disadvantaged position.

COMMED is continuing to function as a registered medical scheme in line with the provisions of the Medical Schemes Act, No. 131 of 1998 (the Act), and should be regarded as such. All healthcare service providers must therefore continue to treat COMMED beneficiaries as members of the scheme, and not as private patients.

The CMS urges any beneficiary affected in this regard to bring the matter to the attention of the scheme with immediate effect.

End

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