

Introductory remarks at PMB compliance workshop

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Protea OR Tambo Hotel

- Brief inputs into what I think is a commendable effort on the part of the Regulator and the industry
- Working within a changing health system context
 - There are a number of key developments elsewhere that will ultimately impact on how the medical schemes industry and private providers will operate in the future, particularly NHI
 - Nonetheless, we have a due obligation to ensure that what is currently in place is functioning appropriately
 - Stronger focus on system oversight on the part of the Ministry
 - Positive that the Minister has engaged with many of us here around the problems associated with Regulation 8
 - Concerns around the ability of patients within the private health insurance system in having adequate financial risk protection
 - Regular complaints forwarded to the Department (and the Ministry) about challenges with regards to a variety of issues, many are PMBs related
 - There is obviously a lot that we can learn from stakeholders with regards to what is happening on the ground and how this affects our ultimate beneficiaries, the medical scheme members
 - The PMBs Compliance Task Team provides us with a forum to “roll up our sleeves” and fully interrogate the barriers to effective PMBs access and also to identify the most appropriate manner to overcome or minimise these barriers
- It’s pleasing to see all who are here to engage and participate in the process of creating a technical team to assist the Department and the CMS on the maintenance & future development of the system of PMBs
 - DOH in full support of this partnership approach to addressing the challenges around the PMBs through learning from the experiences of stakeholders and using this information to better exercise stewardship