



Ref: Invite to historic PMB workshop
Enq: Customer Care Centre
t: 0861 123 267
Date: 4 May 2010

Regulator invites media to historic workshop on industry non-compliance with PMBs

Regulator of the medical schemes industry, the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS), remains concerned about the industry-wide non-compliance with the prescribed minimum benefit (PMB) provisions in the Medical Schemes Act.

Medical schemes and administrators are not providing PMBs in the way they should, blatantly disregarding the law. Healthcare providers are taking unfair advantage of the PMB provisions while beneficiaries seem to misunderstand their entitlements under PMBs.

In December last year the CMS published Circular 37 of 2009 detailing its concerns and asking industry to comply with PMB provisions or face punitive measures which may lead to the deregistration of medical schemes or the withdrawal or suspension of accreditation for administrators. The Circular can be accessed via this link on the CMS website: http://www.medicalschemes.com/publications/ZipPublications/Circulars/Circular37Of2009_20091215.pdf.

Following an overwhelming response to the Circular and numerous meetings with stakeholders, the CMS has agreed to establish a PMB task team to ensure full compliance with PMB provisions in the industry going forward and to protect the rights of beneficiaries as far as their health and access to care is concerned. This PMB task team aims to draft a code of conduct by 30 June 2010 which will be binding on all industry players to ensure that PMB legislation is no longer flouted and beneficiaries are adequately protected.

Media professionals are hereby invited to witness this historic workshop.

Details of the event:

Reason: Workshop to establish a PMB task team to draft a code of conduct for industry
Date: Tuesday 11 May 2010
Time: 8:00 for 8:30 till 15:00 (tea and lunch will be served)
Venue: Protea Hotel OR Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg)

A statutory body established in terms of the
Medical Schemes Act, 1998 (Act 131 of 1998)

Chairperson: Prof. W Pick Acting Registrar & CE: C Burton-Durham



Speakers include:

- Prof. William Pick, Chairperson of the CMS
- Mr Moremi Nkosi, Department of Health
- Dr Jonathan Broomberg, Private Funders Forum
- Advocate Kurt Worrall-Clare, HASA (Hospital Association of South Africa)
- Dr Chris Archer, SAPPF (South African Private Practitioners Forum)
- Dr Humphrey Zokufa, BHF (Board of Healthcare Funders of Southern Africa)
- A representative from the South African Medical Association (SAMA)
- Various other representatives from the CMS

Reminder: what are PMBs?

Prescribed minimum benefits are benefits which are guaranteed to every beneficiary of a medical scheme under the Medical Schemes Act (Act 131 of 1998) and specifically Section 29(1)(o) and Regulation 7. All medical schemes must pay for all PMBs in full, regardless of the benefit option to which a beneficiary belongs. PMBs must be covered from a scheme's risk pool and not from its members' medical savings accounts.

PMBs are listed in the Medical Schemes Act. They cover the diagnosis, treatment, and care of three categories of medical conditions, namely:

1. any emergency medical condition;
2. the 270 diseases called the Diagnosis and Treatment Pairs or DTPs; and
3. the 25 chronic conditions on the Chronic Diseases List or CDL.

If you are attending the workshop

RSVP to our Communication Officer Gugu Blose on 012 431 0581 or g.blose@medicalschemes.com by Friday, 7 May 2010.

If you have general enquiries, contact our Communication Manager & Spokesperson Aleksandra Serwa on 012 431 0512 or a.serwa@medicalschemes.com.

We look forward to sharing this historic event with you.

C Burton-Durham
ACTING REGISTRAR & CE
COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL SCHEMES