



CIRCULAR

Reference: PMB Review  
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Date: 2019/11/27

Circular 79 of 2019: Invitation to comment on the draft PHC services and request for data to cost the services.

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) hereby publishes the draft primary health care (PHC) services document for stakeholder comments.

The process of reviewing the prescribed minimum benefits (PMBs) was initiated through circular 83 of 2016 whereby the CMS outlined its views with regards to the review of the PMBs. Several stakeholder meetings were held in 2017 to ensure that there is a better understanding by all stakeholders regarding how the review process will unfold; and to get inputs and suggestions regarding the initiative, as well as to allow for nominations for stakeholders' representatives on the PMB Review Advisory Committee.

Between 2017 and 2019, several meetings were conducted in order to advise on the way forward with regards to the review of the PMBs. These meetings culminated in a discussion document on priority setting and the process for the development of the PMB package. Within the report, the following processes were proposed;

- (i) Identifying specific preventive services using the recommended principles.
- (ii) Identifying and reviewing the current primary care benefits included in the PMB package.
- (iii) Undertaking a substantive review of the PMB package using Multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA).

The attached draft document outlines the outputs of processes (i) and (ii) above. The proposed set of services and interventions are a first step towards defining services that should be available in a primary health care setting. It should be noted that at this stage, these proposals comprise inputs by different stakeholders and do not represent the final views of the PMB Review Advisory Committee. The PMB Review Advisory Committee still needs to prioritise the services based on the principles stipulated in Annexure A of the document. In order for the priority setting exercise to be completed, the cost of the services has to be determined.

The Costing Committee therefore requests data to establish valid current and projected costs of the proposed services. The data specification for the request is attached. The aim of this data request is to be as comprehensive as possible to identify all possible services and interventions provided in the proposed PHC service package. Detailed personal information such as the RSA identification number, name, surname, and address, is not required.

Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments on the draft PHC document by the 14 of February 2020 and the costing data from the 6 of January 2020 until the 6 of February 2020. The documents are attached below.

- (1) [Draft primary health care services](#)
- (2) [Data specification for costing of the PHC services \(pdf\)](#)
- (3) [Data specification for costing of the PHC services \(excel\)](#)



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