

NHI White Paper: Day 4

This is the fourth in a series of daily analysis pieces of the NHI White Paper that will be sent to SAPPF- and HealthMan Members. Different aspects of the NHI will be analysed on a daily basis, which will help to assist providers in understanding how the NHI initiative will impact the private provider and their practice, as well as the impact on their own access to healthcare. Some broader economic impacts will also be included on occasion.

Extract from the White Paper

Health facilities that are compliant with certification requirement of the OHSC and meet set criteria will be accredited by the NHI Fund as part of strategic purchasing.

Critical Analysis

The Office of Health Standards Compliance is currently woefully understaffed to inspect private sector facilities.

It currently has 35 inspectors which inspected 417 facilities in 2014/15. Inspection certificates are valid for four years.

There are between 30 000 and 70 000 private facilities that would need to be inspected every four years.

Potential staff requirement to do this ranges between 157 managers and 811 staff to 321 managers and 1652 staff.

The inspection budget for the OHSC would have to be increased from the current R34 million to between R700 million and R1.4 billion.

Strategic purchasing implies that providers will be contracted where there is a need. If there is an oversupply in an area i.e Sandton or Pretoria, not all providers will be contracted.

There will be funded contracts available in rural areas, which has the same effect as a certificate of need- you will only have access to NHI funding if you are willing to move where your services are required.

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