

NHI White Paper: Day 11

This is the eleventh 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

The population will be registered at designated health facilities using the unique identifier linked to the Department of Home Affairs identification system.

To ensure continuity of care, access to healthcare services covered will be portable.

This will ensure that internal migrant populations visiting a different part of the country where they were not initially registered, can still access NHI healthcare services.

Migrant populations must provide notice to the NHI Fund prior to embarking on the journey.

Critical Analysis

This does not consider, at all, the vast number of South Africans that travel to the coastal provinces and homelands annually in December.

The sheer administrative requirement in having to deal with 10 million South Africans informing the NHI fund that they are travelling elsewhere, has clearly not been considered.

If this is implemented, it could mean that populations that leave their designated service area, could be excluded from services in a different area if they do not inform the fund, creating a breakdown in access on a national basis.

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