

## Medical aid schemes respond to NHI

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The Huffington Post says many doctors are likely to leave the country with the prospect of the National Health Service kicking in.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) will specify a cap on what patients pay for treatment, meaning it won't be as lucrative as it currently is for many doctors operating in the private sector.

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But that's just one angle to the vast NHI story.

Acting Chief Executive and Registrar for Medical Schemes at the Council for Medical Schemes, Dr Siphso Kanbane speaks to Joanne Joseph about what this will mean for private medical aids, in particular.

Kanbane says if the point is reached where people are now members of the NHI, a choice will have to be made.

They will have to make a choice as to whether they need additional cover for the comprehensive service benefits that the NHI will be offering.

— *Dr Siphso Kanbane, Acting Chief Executive and Registrar for Medical Schemes at the Council for Medical Schemes*

He says it has had discussions with the entities that it regulates.

And in all the meetings that we had with them, there has been a clear indication that the NHI is supported by the schemes and the discussions where people differed were how quickly it should be implemented, whether it will be phased in or not. Issues of cost and also the role of different players. But people are supportive of the NHI.

— *Dr Siphso Kanbane, Acting Chief Executive and Registrar for Medical Schemes at the Council for Medical Schemes*