

# NHI: What, Why, When, How? — All Your Questions Answered

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What is National Health Insurance and how will it affect you? It's complicated. Here are a few of the things we know.

On Thursday, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi introduced two new pieces of legislation that, if implemented, will overhaul the healthcare system. Ultimately, they will create **a new system** for medical aids and a universal, **state-run healthcare system**. In tandem, these changes are supposed to do away with the unequal system we have now, where poor people are forced to use the **low-quality public healthcare system** while the rich can afford **top-notch, private facilities**.

But how this is going to work, when, and with whom, is still very much up in the air. In short, the system is going to be complicated, and even the best experts and journalists in the field have many questions. Here are the answers to a few things that we know:

## **What bills?**

Motsoaledi wants to create **a single healthcare system** that would provide **free, quality healthcare** for all. In order to do this, he has gazetted two bills for public comment. They have been approved by Cabinet, and will go some way to creating the enabling legislative framework to create this single system. (It's a little more complicated than just two, bills, however, as Motsoaledi said at least 12 more pieces of legislation would need to be amended to make these two bills legal.)

The bills are:

### ***Medical Aid Schemes Bill***

Motsoaledi wants all the public and private **healthcare funds to be pooled into one fund run by the state**. This fund will act like a state-run medical aid for everyone.