



SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS FORUM

## NHI Draft Bill Daily Analysis

The NHI Draft Bill was published in Government Gazette 41725 on 21 June 2018. The South African Private Practitioners' Forum will be sharing an analysis of the Draft NHI Bill with members, highlighting issues of importance and concern.

### NHI Draft Bill – Day 4 Excerpt from the Draft Bill

#### "Rights of Users (of NHI System):

- (f) to access health service benefits within a reasonable time period;
- (g) to be treated with a professional standard of care;
- (h) to make reasonable decisions and choices about his or her health and the care he or she is reasonably entitled to;"

### Analysis

Although these overarching rights are not questioned, practical implementation of these rights is still questionable in the NHI system.

There is no definition of reasonable time period and patient choice is already limited by the proviso that each patient needs to register with a Primary Healthcare facility as entry point to the system. Patient therefore does not have a choice at which level to enter the system and there is no indication of processes in changing the entry level point.

There is also the question of what happens to a patient who gets ill while on vacation in a different province. Although emergency care would be covered, routine care could become problematic if trying to obtain it from a different Primary Healthcare entry point.