



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 14 Excerpt from the Draft Bill



National Health information Repository and Data System

34. (1) The Fund must contribute to the development and maintenance of a National Health Information Repository and Data System contemplated in section 74 of the National Health Act in order to fulfil the requirements for dissemination of information and the keeping of records, which must facilitate-

- (a) the implementation of the objects and the effective management of the Fund; and
- (b) portability and continuity of health care services available to users subject to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 43 of 1996), and the Promotion of Access to Information Act, data must be compiled and stored by an independent data company so as to ensure that data is accurate and equally accessible to the Department and the Fund, or to any other stakeholder legally entitled to such information.

Analysis

The logical place for such a data repository to sit would be within the NHI Fund, as the purchaser of Healthcare services from all providers in the country.

With the current rife nature of State capture coming to the fore, one has to wonder whether an independent data company is suggested to facilitate access to state funding, by outsourcing this service. The state seems to be adamant that administration of the fund will be government run and yet the IT component is outsourced to an independent data company.

The irrational nature of such a proposal,

makes one wonder what the motives are for this outsourcing of the data storage.

The same question can actually be asked about the need for a single funder, which will be twice the size of Eskom.

This will simply centralise the corruption to a level where it is easily accessed from the central government sphere.

While state capture is currently being addressed, its legacy of creating high level access to state funding is now firmly ensconced in the NHI model, by both a single payer and an outsourced IT system being proposed.