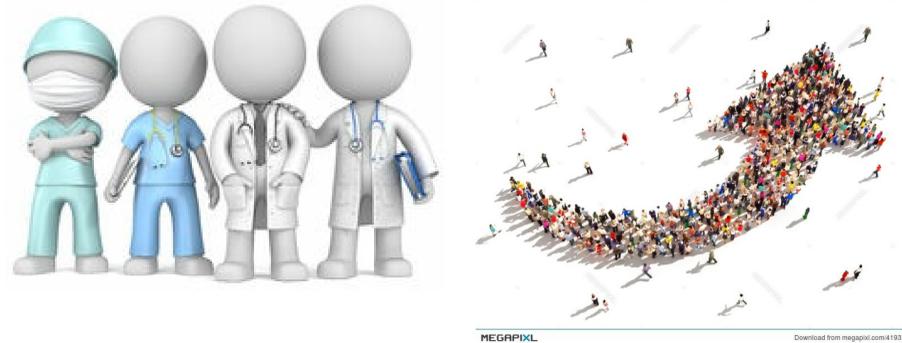




NHI Draft Bill Daily Analysis

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 15 Excerpt from the Draft Bill



Accreditation of service provider

- (2) In order to be accredited by the Fund, a service provider must -
- (a) be in possession of and produce proof of certification by the Office of Health Standards Compliance, and where relevant proof of registration by the Health Professions Council, Nursing Council, South African Dental Council or Pharmacy Council, as the case may be;
- (6) The Fund must renew the accreditation of service providers every five years on the basis of compliance with the accreditation criteria as reflected in subsection (2).
- (7) The Fund may withdraw or refuse to renew the accreditation of a service provider if it is proven that the service provider -
- (a) has failed or is unable to deliver the required comprehensive health service benefits to users who are entitled to such benefits;
- (g) fails to adhere to the national pricing regimen for services delivered;"

Analysis

This section could be problematic, as the indication is that the OHSC accreditation is only valid for a period of four years. There could therefore be problems with overlap of the various certifications needed to contract with the fund, one being valid for 5 years and one being valid for 4 years.

7(g) indicates that if a provider does not charge the rates determined by die Fund, their accreditation will be cancelled. Co-payments will therefore not be allowed and also not billing above the NHI rate.

This creates questions around the availability of sub specialists and super specialists in the NHI environment, as these providers invariably have higher overhead costs, and subsequently tariffs, than other specialist colleagues.

If these providers are not employed by the state and choose not to contract with the NHI fund and only render services in the Medical scheme environment, the majority of South Africans will not have access to super specialist care.