



SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS FORUM

Implementing NHI is not a once-off event

Massive reorganisation of the current private and public health system will be required in order to implement the Medical Schemes Amendment Bill and the National Health Insurance Bill, said Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi at a media briefing in Pretoria (21 June).



Abolish

- Medical Schemes
- PMBs
- Co-payments
- Practice of using brokers

Minister Motsoaledi highlighted ten amendments to the Medical Schemes Bill. They include:

Abolish Co-payments

"This amendment means that every cent charged to the patient must be settled fully by the scheme and the patient should not be burdened with having to pay."

Abolish medical schemes' practice of using Brokers

The total amount paid to brokers in 2017 was R2,2-bn.

"We are aware that most of the work supposedly done by brokers is actually done by the Council of Medical Schemes."

Abolish PMBs

According to the third amendment the practice of Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMBs) will be abolished. It will be replaced with Comprehensive Service Benefits like family planning, vaccination, screening and wellness services.

Pass back savings

The eighth amendment compels medical schemes to pass back savings if a member uses a designated service provider according to the rules of the scheme.

NHI and SA's 'terrible twins'

According to Min Motsoaledi the poor quality of care in the Public Health System and the existing "exorbitant" cost of Private Healthcare are the problems (terrible twins) that has to be solved by the implementing of National Health Insurance Bill (NHI).

"South Africa is completely out of sync with the rest of the world. The amount of money spent on private healthcare in South Africa is more than any other country in the world."

When asked how NHI will be funded, the Minister said: "This is not a question to ask the Minister, it is a question to ask Treasury and the Government."

Twelve Acts will be amended for the smooth running of the healthcare system and to impose quality. They include the National Health Act and the Mental Health Act.

The Competition Commission's Health Market Inquiry into Private Healthcare was supposed to be released on Thursday, 28 June. However, in a statement published on 22 June, the HMI informed stakeholders that the publication of the Provisional Findings and Recommendations Report (the Provisional Report) will be delayed.