

Q: What are the possible impacts of NHI on the private health care providers?

A: The NHI Fund will purchase a basket of health services directly from accredited public and private health institutions, and private health practitioners, including accredited private hospitals and emergency medical services.

- Contracting will be based on pre-determined criteria to 'realise value for money, accountability and equity, among others'.
- How specialists, in short supply even in public health, will be persuaded to work harder for less in a single health system is unclear and this was also one of the major weakness emanating from the initial 11 NHI pilot districts.
- The NHI Fund, in consultation with Minister Motsoaledi, will determine its own pricing and reimbursement mechanisms. Providers, who wish to contract with the NHI Fund, must comply with the stipulated pricing and reimbursement mechanisms.
- All institutions and health practitioners will have to be accredited to treat patients. The Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) will evaluate and inspect institutions based on set criteria, including infection control, patient safety and staff attitudes. Only facilities that are accredited by the OHSC will get money from the NHI Fund.
- The Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) was established to ensure quality of health services and will be key in the certification of health establishments throughout South Africa.
- All NHI providers will be issued contracts, which will set out performance expectations in respect of: patient management, patient volumes, quality of services delivered, adherence to clinical protocols and treatment guidelines, and improved access to health services. Payment will be linked to health outcomes, but the definition of these is vague in the White Paper