

**Our members  
our passion.**

**WCMAS**

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### **Codeine Care Initiative to combat abuse**

Codeine is used to relieve mild to moderately severe pain and belongs to the group medicines called narcotic analgesics (pain medicine). While codeine has proven to be highly effective, it is also addictive when not used correctly and is prone to misuse and abuse. All codeine products might soon require a prescription, taking them out of the reach of people needing only a mild pain killer. Due to the possible abuse of the medication the Scheme has decided to implement a rule change for 6 months with warning messages where the quantity limit allowed of 1200mg per 30 days is exceeded.



### **Prescribed Minimum Benefits**

Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMB) is a set of defined benefits to ensure that all medical scheme members have access to certain minimum health services, regardless of the benefit option they have selected.

The aim is to provide people with continuous care to improve their health and well-being and to make healthcare more affordable. Medical schemes pay your prescribed minimum benefit (PMB's) claims based on a diagnostic code, so you need to know what the code is for your PMB condition and ensure that it is on every claim related to your condition.

PMBs includes 26 common chronic diseases in the Chronic Disease List (CDL) and other chronic conditions within the ±270 Diagnosis Treatment Pair (DTP) section.

As Schemes pay PMB claims in full (subject to Scheme protocols) it places an important responsibility on all members who are in the unique position that they can actively negotiate (and not only accept) the fees that their practitioners charge.

We would like to urge members to enquire from the Scheme what the scheme rates for their particular PMB costs are and to negotiate with their providers regarding the fees and charges and thereby assist in sharing in the responsibility towards acquiring a better healthcare outcome for all.



We value our members and their healthcare funding is of upmost importance to us.

### **Universal Health Care**

The Scheme has decided to move over to Universal Health Care with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 for all hospital pre-authorisation/authorisations and case management. Currently these services are being performed by MHS.

New Active Nurse Based Disease Management programs, HIV/Aids and maternity programs will be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 and will be managed through Universal Health Care

The oncology program will continue through ICON and the Pharmacy Benefit Management Program through Medikredit.

More information will be made available to members and service providers nearer to the changeover time.