

Dear Pharmacist

Funding for primary health care consultations available from 1 January 2020

During the past few years, the number of pharmacy clinics has grown across South Africa. These clinics play an integral role in increasing access to high-quality yet affordable primary healthcare.

Because we recognise the importance of pharmacy clinics, we are introducing a set of pharmacy clinic benefits from 1 January 2020. As a result, we are establishing a primary care pharmacy clinic network to support this.

How primary health care consultations will be funded in pharmacy clinics:

Pharmacy clinic consultations will be funded in one of the following ways:

- Through Discovery Primary Care, for eligible employees
- For members of Discovery Health Medical Scheme:
 - Through the available day-to-day benefits, either from the Medical Savings Account or from the Above Threshold Benefit
 - Through the Day-to-day Extender Benefit where members have used up their available funds in their Medical Savings Account and are in their Self-payment Gap.

Services this network will offer

- **Clinic consultations**
Clinic healthcare professionals will provide primary health care based on their respective qualifications and scope of practice. Where medicine is required, pharmacists and clinic healthcare professionals may recommend or prescribe medicines within their scope of practice.
- **Virtual doctor consultations**
Where required, clinic healthcare professionals can refer patients to a team of general practitioners through real-time video consultation.

Requirements for participation in the new primary care pharmacy clinic network

Participation in the primary healthcare clinic network is voluntary and open to any pharmacy clinic that meet the requirements that include, among others:

- Available clinic healthcare professionals including registered nurses or registered primary care drug therapist (PCDT) pharmacists
- Dedicated and private consultation room within the pharmacy
- Appropriate clinical equipment and furniture

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- A bathroom that is easily accessible
- Electronic clinic practice management and claims submission system.

Please note

For Scheme funding through the Day-to-day Extender Benefit, the following requirements must be met:

- Technology-enabled access to a general practitioner
- HealthID integrated electronic clinic practice management system
- Accredited telemedicine system
- Appropriate referral network in place (including general practitioner, pathology and radiology practices).

More information will follow

We will keep you informed of the final requirements and developments as soon as we have finalised the details. Our aim is that the invitation and contract documents follow mid-November 2019.

In the meantime, if you're interested in joining the new primary healthcare clinic network when it launches, please make sure your pharmacy meets the necessary criteria. Contact your software vendor to make sure your clinic software is integrated with Vitality as well. If you want to offer virtual general practitioner consultations, you will need to have technology-enabled access.

Regards



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