



communication

Dear MBMed Member,

Renal dialysis patients can now benefit from our Network

What you need to know, in short

- MBMed is introducing a Renal Dialysis Network aimed at limiting chronic renal dialysis patients' exposure to their quality of care, and assisting with maintaining their members' access to dialysis.
- From 1 July 2023, beneficiaries who use chronic renal dialysis must make use of providers on our Network. To confirm whether providers are on the network, affected beneficiaries can email mbmed@medscheme.co.za.
- If beneficiaries who need chronic renal dialysis voluntarily use a non-network renal dialysis provider, an out-of-network co-payment of **20%** of the Scheme Tariff (as per the Scheme Rules) will be applied at the point of service, whether or not. The only times such a co-payment will not apply (although this would be subject to authorisation, and network approval) would be:
 - If the beneficiary's home address registered with the Scheme is not within a 30km radius of a network facility;
 - If the beneficiary is travelling or on holiday, and there is not a network facility within a 30km radius of the beneficiary's home address while travelling;
 - If a network renal facility is at full capacity and cannot treat the patient, and the patient therefore has to use an alternate out-of-network provider; and/or
 - In the case of acute dialysis.

Background information about the introduction of the Renal Dialysis Network

HOW AND WHY RENAL DIALYSIS COSTS ARE SPIRALLING

Despite vigorous negotiations with the large dialysis groups, the past three years have seen significant above-inflation increases in renal dialysis expenditure across Medscheme's client schemes, including MBMed. This increase in expenditure has been driven by an increase in the number of members requiring dialysis services, specifically those with hypertension, diabetes and HIV.

The increase in dialysis numbers, in turn, is mainly driven by the deteriorating disease profile of scheme members with chronic communicable diseases, especially hypertension and diabetes, together with the impact of HIV.

HOW THIS SITUATION IS BEING ADDRESSED

- Medscheme have contracted a collective renal dialysis DSP network that is open to the scheme's members' business.
- The objectives of the collective renal dialysis network are to further manage dialysis costs and improve service and patient outcomes by applying principles of – and using the power of – “collective bargaining” to the renal dialysis network.
- Renal dialysis providers are contracted onto a collective Medscheme renal dialysis DSP network of providers.
- Given the benefits in terms of reduced costs and quality control, the MBMed Board of Trustees has approved the introduction of the collective renal dialysis network with effect from 1 July 2023.

Should you have any questions about the Renal Dialysis Network, or your membership in general, please contact mbmed@medscheme.co.za, or calling 086 000 2109.

Kind regards

MBMed Medical Aid Fund

