



MAY 2024

Dear Member

As you are aware, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the National Health Insurance (NHI) Act into law on 15 May 2024. MBMed, represented by the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF), has acknowledged this development, which is a significant milestone in South Africa's collective efforts to progress towards universal health coverage and improve access to quality healthcare services for all South Africans.

How does the signing of the NHI bill impact your membership?

There is no immediate impact on your medical scheme membership. For now, it is business as usual, and we reassure you of our continued commitment to providing quality health services for you and your dependants.

MBMed believes that government's policy objective is commendable as it aims to address systemic challenges in our healthcare system and ensures that every citizen has access to the quality care they need, regardless of their socio-economic status. However, as MBMed, we do not believe the Act in its current form will achieve this objective. In the long term, the NHI Act will reduce the role of medical schemes to a complementary one, although there are many legal and financial aspects to address before this can be achieved. We strongly believe that medical schemes are a national asset and should play a significant role in creating healthcare access, now and in the future.

Will MBMed legally challenge the NHI Act?

In our efforts to put your interests as a member first, the BHF (the industry association to which MBMed belongs), will immediately institute legal proceedings to challenge various aspects of the NHI Act believed to be unconstitutional and unlawful, with a view to ensuring the longevity of medical aid schemes as an integral part of the South African healthcare system.

The Board of MBMed is supportive of the BHF's legal challenge as it protects your interests - our members will always come first!

What happens next?

We will continue to actively monitor developments, engage with relevant authorities and other stakeholders and provide updates and communication to you on a regular basis.

The President has signed the NHI bill into law, but rest assured, your medical scheme membership remains unaffected. MBMed is dedicated to maintaining your access to health services as usual and supports our industry association's legal challenge to ensure your interests come first.

Warm regards

Telrita Fritz
CHAIRPERSON

