

Brought to you on behalf of Elsabé Klinck & Associates



Deep Dives and Scanning the 2023 Horizon

On request, we are hosting a last Deep Dive-associated session on **Friday,28 October 2022**. This session will be a health sector **HORIZON SCANNING** session, covering major health policy issues from 2022, and discussing what is to be expected in 2023, and what the sector should prepare for. The session will include:

- In-depth analysis of the **NHI Bill process in Parliament**, the impact of health sector stakeholders and what will happen in 2023 and how to prepare for it.
- Changes in healthcare professions, specifically changes brought about or proposed by SANC, the HPCSA and the SAPC - and how that effects and will affect the health sector and those who are, employ, interact with, or use healthcare professionals.
- Changes in Procurement legislation, with the Draft Procurement Bill to be introduced as a Bill in Parliament, replacing and/or affecting the PFMA, National Treasury Regulations and the application of B-BBEE.
- Low Cost Benefit Options and the future of medical schemes, including extracts from the hopefully-by-then-released CMS Industry Report.
- Developments in health products selection, the EML / EEL and technology assessments.
- Developments in the Office of Health Standards Compliance, including previous accreditations, standards of quality and envisaged inspection categories, including for private establishments and practices.

The session will be run in a hybrid format, from 10:00 – 15:00 at the Bryanston Country Club. the cost will be R1300 per person, VAT exclusive. Please contact <u>Eugenia</u> to book your seat or your online spot.



The CMS has invited, with fairly short notice (deadline **7 October 2022** before midnight), comment on the Low Cost Benefit Options (LCBOs), so far.

Key aspects of the proposals include:

- Benefit deign that would be attractive to households with a maximum income of R18 000 per month.
- Nurse, or GP-based Primary Care (with proposed fees of between R62 and R85;
- Medicines benefits aligned with the **EML**;
- Some pathology and radiology;
- Emergency transportation (ambulance services).

There is some ambiguity as to the entities that will provide the LCBOs, i.e. only medical schemes, or also insurance entities under the current Demarcation Regulations. It is also not clear whether basic optometry and/or dentistry will be included. Private hospital care is explicitly excluded, and although antenatal and material care appears to be wanted by this segment of the market, there is fears on the cost of private hospitalisation and possible C-sections. It remains unclear how the restrictions on private sector nurses as treating practitioners and prescribers will be overcome, and whether any analysis had been done as to the willingness of professionals to work for the estimated fees.

Comments to:

lcbo@medicalschemes.co.za



IN OTHER NEWS

The Competition Commission has also announced proposed regulations to create **bulk exemptions for smaller entities** from the Competition Act, which for health providers include turnovers up until R70m per year.

Exemption is proposed to allow such smaller players to collectively undertake:

- Research and development (R&D)
- Joint purchasing agreements
- Joint selling prices of goods or services to and through 'intermediaries'
- Commercialisation agreements
- Standardisation agreements
- Collective negotiations with large buyers or suppliers on the terms and conditions for purchasing or supply of goods or services.

Price fixing and setting prices through the above is still prohibited. The regulations are not finalised. But before associations or groups embark on these activities, it is highly recommended that expert competition law advice be obtained.

The Information Regulator has released the reporting forms for personal information security breaches. It is mandatory to inform the regulator of breaches. The Guidelines and Form can be accessed <a href="https://example.com/here/be/here/by/here/

We hope that this last stretch in the year is not too strenuous!

All the best, Elsabe, Eugenia, Marieta, Thando & Alton Elsabe Klinck & Associates