

02 May 2025

Dear Pharmacist

Applying reference pricing on oncology medicine to other schemes

We recently implemented changes to the way we fund chemotherapy, oncology supportive medicine and hormone therapy for Discovery Health Medical Scheme members.

We will be rolling out the same changes for the following schemes administered by Discovery Health from 1 July 2025.

1. Engen Medical Benefit Fund
2. LA Health Medical Scheme
3. Malcor Medical Aid Scheme
4. MEDiPOS Medical Scheme
5. MultiChoice Medical Aid Scheme
6. Remedi Medical Aid Scheme
7. Retail Medical Scheme
8. TFG Medical Aid Scheme
9. Tsogo Sun Group Medical Scheme
10. UKZN Medical Scheme

Reference pricing ensures compliance with best-priced interchangeable medicine making the Oncology Benefit more affordable for members while optimising Oncology Benefit use.

The reference price is the maximum amount we will pay for medicine within a specific, generically substitutable group of medicine. This will apply to oncology supportive medicine, chemotherapy and hormone therapy. We will communicate this change to members well before the implementation date.

How we will cover oncology treatment in future

- We will continue to pay formulary items in full.
- Where the price of alternative generic equivalents within a medicine class exceeds the reference price, we will pay up to the maximum of the reference price.
- Depending on the chosen item, the member may have to pay the balance as a co-payment.

We will make a tool available to assist and support members with this change.

How you will know that a reference price applies

You will recognise the items with reference prices as they will be flagged as below:

Pharmacy message

Paid item at the reference price.

Member statement message

We paid this item at the reference price. This claim will accumulate to the limit of your 12-month cycle. Once you've reached your cycle limit, we'll pay claims at 80% of the reference price.

Member statement message for KeyCare Plans


We have paid for this item at the reference price from your Oncology Benefit.

Please assist your customers who are members of the schemes mentioned above which are administered by Discovery Health and are impacted by this change, with choosing cost-efficient options so they can limit or avoid co-payments.

If you need more information about how we pay for supportive cancer medicine, please do not hesitate to email us at healthpartners@discovery.co.za.

Thank you for your continued partnership in caring for our InHouse Scheme members!

Regards



Suzanne van der Walt Manager: Pharmacy Contract and Network Strategy

Discovery Health