

NAPPI CODE REGISTRATION AND REVIEW PROCESS 2026

DISCOVERY HEALTH
2026





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Industry overview

A National Pharmaceutical Product Interference (NAPPI) code is a unique product identifier for price adjudication in an electronic environment. The NAPPI is the only accepted code for product identification by all healthcare funders in South Africa.

MediKredit Integrated Healthcare Solutions (MediKredit) owns the NAPPI codes in South Africa and is the only organisation that can assign NAPPI codes. MediKredit created a stipulation allowing healthcare funders to help govern NAPPI codes by implementing the NAPPI Advisory Board (NAB). This is a non-profit organisation representing hospitals, medical schemes, medical scheme administrators and medical and dental associations.

MediKredit is responsible for managing and maintaining the NAPPI file under the governing authority of the NAPPI Advisory Board.

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
list price, including VAT	This is the price submitted to MediKredit when applying for a NAPPI code. The list price is the price at which the supplier sells the product to their customers before any discount.
max nett acquisition price	This is also known as the max net acquisition price or best acquisition price. It is the price at which the supplier sells the product to hospital groups and healthcare professionals after discounts are applied.
Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN)	These generic names are used to identify all medical devices managed by the GMDN agency. The main purpose of GMDN is to give healthcare authorities, healthcare regulators, healthcare providers and manufacturers a naming system that can be used to exchange medical device information and support patient safety. Visit the GMDN Agency online at www.gmdnagency.org .
catalogue number	Used by manufacturers and suppliers as unique product and pack-size identifiers in their price catalogues and invoicing to their customers
approved product list letter	The approved product list letter is the reimbursement letter sent by the Surgical Risk team after their benchmark review process.
quality accreditation	This is the process where products undergo accreditation and are subsequently assigned quality assurance, such as CE, FDA or ISO.
comparator products	These are products that are produced by different manufacturers but that have similarities in their core function and use, device material and attribute assortment. They do not have to be the same to be a comparator product.



South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)	<p>The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) oversees the regulation of health products, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Medicines■ Medical devices■ In-vitro diagnostic tests and devices■ Radiation emitting products■ Devices used in the healthcare industry <p>SAHPRA replaced the Medicine Control Council (MCC) and the Directorate of Radiation Control (DRC).</p>
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NAPPI codes

Suppliers or manufacturers of surgical consumables and devices and of ethical medicine must apply to MediKredit to get NAPPI codes for their product. They need NAPPI codes so that the private healthcare sector can reimburse the product electronically.

MediKredit manages their own Product and Price File. Their service comes at a fee. The supplier or manufacturer must give their product information and list price, including VAT, during the application process.

Discovery Health (Pty) Ltd. has its own internal benefit management system for Discovery Health Medical Scheme and the other medical schemes it administers. It is called the Pharmacy Benefit Management system. The Product and Price File team manage the product listings and the prices of all products on the system. This aligns with Discovery's business strategy of giving the medical schemes we administer a comprehensive suite of managed care services.

Discovery Health's NAPPI registration process

Once MediKredit assigns a NAPPI code to a new product, the code is included in the public domain file. Anyone can view the public domain file on the MediKredit website at www.medikredit.co.za. It is updated daily.

The Product and Price File team are notified when new NAPPI codes are added to the public domain file. They then contact the manufacturer or supplier and ask for the following information on the price file template:

- Product information, e.g. active ingredients
- GMDN code for surgical devices and consumables
- List price, including VAT, for products where prices are not regulated by SAHPRA
- Date the price becomes effective
- Max nett acquisition price
- Quality accreditation
- Comparator catalogue number or comparator NAPPI codes

Once they have this information, they publish the NAPPI code on the Product and Price File. This means that providers can claim against the NAPPI code electronically. The NAPPI code is then reviewed by the Surgical Risk team (surgical items) or the Drug Risk team (ethical items).

It's important to be aware that even if a NAPPI code is enabled for electronic processing and listed on the Price and Product File, this does not automatically guarantee reimbursement.

Discovery Health should be given adequate notice of a new product launch. This helps make sure that the company's decision whether to fund is made before the product is introduced into the market.



NAPPI review process for surgical products

The Surgical Risk team do an extra review process. Once complete, they send the reimbursement outcome to the supplier in writing. If the product is approved, it will be listed on the approved product list. The review process takes about twenty-one working days. The price file template must be fully completed to avoid delays.

The review processes for the various product categories

Automatic approval

- This applies to 'Me-too' technologies where the clinical outcomes and the submitted price are the same or lower than a comparator.
- If the product falls within an existing category of devices and within the reference price band of the category, it will automatically be approved. The supplier will get a confirmation letter from powerbitab@discovery.co.za.

1) Price negotiation for 'Me-too' technology where the price is higher than the comparator

- If the product falls into an existing category of devices but is at a premium price compared to all devices within the category, it will be considered 'pending'. More information is needed about the product to justify the premium price. The supplier will be asked to complete a product information notification (PIN) form with the extra information.
- If there is still a dispute about the premium price, the supplier will need to follow the Health Technology Assessment process.

2) Non-chargeable or Scheme exclusions

- If the product falls into these categories, the supplier will get a letter with the reason it was declined.

3) New technologies

- A new technology is classified as:
 - An existing product with a new indication, use or function
 - An existing product that has been enhanced or improved with a premium price request
 - A product with no existing comparator on the market
 - An ethical product or medicine with a new active ingredient or molecules.
- The Health Technology Assessment process must be followed for new technologies.
- The supplier must provide published clinical proof of the improved clinical outcomes to justify the price. The outcomes should also be measurable in local claims data.

The manufacturer can request the full list of their approved products. They will be able to see the reimbursement and listing of all their NAPPI codes. The approved product list is shared with all hospital groups monthly.

Note: powerbitab@discovery.co.za is a no-reply email address. For queries about the review process or reimbursement letters, please email isem@discovery.co.za.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA process)

Discovery Health is committed to giving our members funding for the best quality healthcare available in South Africa, while making sure that their cover stays affordable and sustainable in the long term.

The Centre for Clinical Excellence will review a new technology (medicine, medical and surgical procedures and devices, diagnostics and pathology tests) using a rigorous, evidence-based decision-making process consisting of a clinical and financial filter.

The clinical filter uses published evidence-based literature, the opinion of local and international key opinion leaders and current treatment guidelines to make sure that the health technology is safe and clinically effective. The financial filter assesses the health economics and budget impact of the new technology to make sure it is cost-effective and affordable.

Discovery Health rules for funding new technology

1. Discovery Health decides whether to fund a new technology based on our clinical and economic review process, which includes the following information:
 - Clinical evidence-based data to prove that the technology is safe and effective



- Clinical indications of the proposed treatment
 - Details of costs associated with the technology, as well as costs of comparative technologies
 - Health economic data to support the cost-effectiveness of the new technology
2. The manufacturer should include this information in the completed Discovery Health technology evaluation document and send it to the Health Technology Assessment unit or to the Surgical Risk unit.
 3. Discovery Health has the right to decline funding for a new technology until it has been assessed through this process.
 4. The manufacturer of a new technology must tell Discovery Health that the treatment is going to be introduced to the healthcare market so that it can go through the clinical and economic review process.
 5. The Health Technology Assessment clinical review process takes at least six months from the date the relevant clinical information and studies are received to completion. The timeframe is explained in the Health Technology Assessment acknowledgement letter.
 6. If more information or studies on the product are submitted after the review is completed, these will be considered for evaluation 12 months after the recommendation letter is issued.

Approval for new equipment

Equipment used in hospitals or in a healthcare practitioner's practice may need a billing code.

- The supplier must find out whether a billing code exists that applies to the new technology or equipment
- If the equipment is to be owned and used by healthcare professionals, the supplier must contact the South African Medical Association or liaise directly with the healthcare practitioner about the right billing code.
- If the equipment is to be owned and used by a hospital, the supplier must contact the relevant private hospital to introduce the equipment and discuss the appropriate tariff codes.
- If a new code is needed, the respective hospital group should initiate this. Suppliers cannot apply for a new code; it must be done through either the hospital or the healthcare practitioner.
- If the equipment is classified as a new technology, it will undergo the relevant Health Technology Assessment process.

Approval for digital technologies

Digital health products include categories such as mobile health, health information technology, wearable devices, telehealth, telemedicine and personalised medicine.

When Discovery considers whether to approve a digital device, the Surgical Risk team will do due diligence on the technology and on the supplier or manufacturer. The criteria below will be used to decide whether the product can be reimbursed and incorporated into benefits. The supplier or manufacturer must have a SAHPRA licence.

Clinical evidence

The product must undergo the Health Technology Assessment process defined above. Should the device pass the clinical and financial assessment, there might be further steps, such as system integration, depending on the underlying business need. Suppliers will be told of the reimbursement outcome in writing, including the funding recommendation.

Reliability and national support structure

The team will consider the retail footprint of the supplier or manufacturer to make sure all members and providers have access to it.

Functionality

The minimum requirements and clinical outcomes of the device must be explained clearly, including the ease of technical integration. The integration with Discovery Health's clinical data repository lets members share their data with their doctors through a seamless digital process to monitor clinical outcomes.



Data protection

The supplier or manufacturer must be able to keep the members' data secure. The team will do a data security and privacy evaluation of devices and platforms.

NAPPI review process for ethical products

Ethical products are reimbursed based on the benefit the product is being claimed from. There are two main categories:

Funding from the Medical Savings Account

When a member does not have an authorisation for an ethical product from a risk benefit (Chronic Illness, HIV, Oncology or Prescribed Minimum Benefits), the funding will come from the member's available Medical Savings Account or their own pocket. Reimbursement will depend on the type of product and whether it qualifies for Medical Savings Account funding or a General Scheme Exclusion. If the product qualifies, it will depend on the member's plan type and whether they still have funds available in their Medical Savings Account. Plans without a Medical Savings Account do not have this option available, and claims will be for the member's own pocket.

Funding from risk benefits (the Scheme)

Risk funding depends on whether the member has an authorisation for a product from a risk benefit. Once an authorisation is granted, the level of reimbursement will depend on the type of product.

Annual inflationary price increases: Process for surgical products

The manufacturer must tell Discovery Health in writing if they want to submit a price change. The Product and Price File team do not automatically get price updates from MediKredit.

Prices cannot be automatically adjusted annually. Prices cannot be adjusted by an amount exceeding the Consumer Price Index or the agreed appropriate Scheme Rate for the year. The manufacturer must complete the price increase template and send it to the Surgical Risk team for review. They will confirm that they have received the request, and they will send written acceptance of the adjustment if it meets the criteria.

Price changes for ethical products

- Discovery Health updates the single exit price ethicals using the Department of Health files. We get these directly from the Department of Health.
- For other ethical products, we use the MediKredit price. The manufacturer must submit this directly to the Product and Price File team at Price_and_Product_File@discovery.co.za. We do not get price changes from MediKredit.

Our confidentiality policy

We treat information we get from manufacturers in the strictest confidence. We only use the information for internal product classification, pricing and reimbursement purposes.

Contact the team

Price and Product File: PRICE_AND_PRODUCT_FILE@discovery.co.za

- New product information and pricing
- Updated product information and pricing
- Change in contact details
- Notification of company name changes, mergers, etc

Surgical risk: ISEM@discovery.co.za

- Approved product list
- Approval for digital technologies
- Annual price adjustments
- Approval for new equipment



- Health Technology Assessment

Drug Risk: drm_team@discovery.co.za

- Formulary considerations (only SAHPRA-registered Schedule 3 to 6 products)

Health Technology Assessment: cpuwatchlist@discovery.co.za

- New technology review