



primary option

# benefits 2023

*Effective 1 January 2023*

Members and their dependants are entitled to the following benefits, subject to the provisions of the rules of the Scheme, and in particular the provisions of the statutory Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMBs).



**CLIENT SERVICE TEAM:**  
**0800 004 389 OR**  
**021 480 4801**

This summary is for information purposes only and does not supersede the rules of the Scheme. In the event of any discrepancy, the rules will prevail.

NO	BENEFIT	REIMBURSEMENT RATE	ANNUAL LIMIT
	INSURED BENEFIT		Unlimited
1.	<b>Statutory Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMBs)</b>	100% of cost	Services rendered by State hospital or DSP unlimited, subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols
2.	<b>Hospitalisation</b>		Subject to overall annual limit of R1 384 500 for non-PMB conditions Benefits for admission to a private hospital are subject to the utilisation of DSP hospitals appointed by the Scheme (refer to www.pnpms.co.za) In the event that a non-DSP hospital is voluntarily utilised, the member will be liable for 30% of the cost associated with the admission Admissions are subject to pre-authorisation with the Scheme's managed care provider 2 working days prior to admission and within 48 hours of the incident in the case of emergencies Failure to obtain authorisation within 48 hours could result in co-payments
	Private hospitals (excluding rehabilitation)	100% of agreed tariff	
	State hospitals	100% of UPFS or cost, whichever is the lowest	
	Medicines dispensed in and upon discharge from hospital	100% of SEP and agreed dispensing fee	To-take-out (TTO) medication limited to 7 days' supply; subject to the medication reference price list and formulary
	Alternatives to hospitalisation (i) Step-down facilities (ii) Hospice (ward fees and disposables) (iii) Home nursing	100% of agreed tariff or 100% of cost in the case of a PMB	Subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols
3.	<b>GPs and specialists: In-hospital services</b> Consultations, visits and procedures/operations	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to overall annual limit
4.	<b>Psychiatric conditions/Substance abuse</b> (i) In hospital (ii) Out of hospital (consultations)	100% of cost 100% of agreed tariff	PMBs only, at DSPs; subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols
5.	<b>Radiology</b> (i) In-hospital basic radiology (ii) Out-of-hospital basic radiology (iii) In- and out-of-hospital specialised radiology (MRI and CT scans)	100% of agreed tariff 100% of agreed tariff 100% of cost	Subject to overall annual limit and clinical and funding protocols Subject to network list of X-rays and protocols PMBs only; subject to pre-authorisation
6.	<b>Pathology</b> (i) In hospital (ii) Out of hospital	100% of agreed tariff 100% of agreed tariff	Subject to overall annual limit and clinical and funding protocols Subject to network list of pathology tests and protocols
7.	<b>Blood transfusions and technician services</b>	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to overall annual limit
8.	<b>Oncology treatment (in and out of hospital)</b>	100% of cost	PMBs only, at DSPs Subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols and registration on the Oncology Management Programme
9.	<b>Surgical/Internal prostheses</b>	100% of agreed tariff	PMBs only; subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols
10.	<b>Maxillofacial surgery</b> (excluding specialised dentistry)	100% of cost	PMBs only, at DSPs
11.	<b>Organ transplants</b> (hospitalisation and surgery)	100% of cost	PMBs only, at DSPs
12.	<b>Emergency rescue services: ER24</b>	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to pre-authorisation and ER24 protocols; tel: 084 124

NO	BENEFIT	REIMBURSEMENT RATE	ANNUAL LIMIT
13.	<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	100% of cost	Subject to registration on the HIV/AIDS management programme and managed care protocols Treatment within PMB protocols at DSP is unlimited
14.	<b>Renal dialysis</b>	100% of cost	PMBs only
15.	<b>Chronic conditions</b> Registration on the network chronic medicine management programme applies	100% of SEP plus agreed dispensing fee	Approval is subject to the network chronic conditions and medicine formulary lists Approved chronic medicines are obtainable at a network pharmacy; the member's preferred point of collection will be confirmed on approval A 30% co-payment may apply if a non-network pharmacy is used All medication will be subject to the chronic medicine reference price list at DSPs only
16.	<b>Maternity benefits</b>  (i) <b>In hospital</b> Natural birth  Caesarean (excludes elective caesareans)  Neonatal intensive care  (ii) <b>Out of hospital</b> General practitioner consultations    2-dimensional ultrasounds  Routine blood tests for abnormalities (refer to Annexure C for the list of procedures covered)	100% of agreed tariff, unless a PMB, in which case 100% of cost	Uncomplicated natural birth is subject to a limit of R33 200 per confinement; complicated natural birth is subject to a limit of R48 500 per confinement Emergency caesareans only; subject to a limit of R48 500 per confinement Subject to a limit of R69 700 per year PMB admissions are paid at 100% of cost and will accrue to this limit, but is not subject to the limit Supervision of uncomplicated pregnancies at network GP up to week 12 Antenatal visits at gynaecologists after week 12 Gynaecologist visits are subject to out-of-hospital specialist limit and pre-authorisation 1 scan during 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester As requested by the network GP and subject to the network formulary
17.	<b>Speech therapy, physiotherapy, audiology and occupational therapy (in hospital)</b> As part of a hospital event or resulting from a hospital event for a period of 6 weeks after discharge	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to pre-authorisation and clinical and funding protocols
18.	<b>Out-patient surgical procedures</b> (refer to Annexure A for the list of procedures covered)	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to overall annual limit

## Benefits obtainable from networks

NO	BENEFIT	REIMBURSEMENT RATE	ANNUAL LIMIT
1.	<b>GPs (out of hospital)</b> Network GP consultations and visits (nebulisation, circumcisions, removal of foreign bodies, stitching of wounds, electrocardiograms, drainage of abscesses, infusions, limb casts, excisions and repairs and integumentary system procedures)  Emergencies and out-of-network consultations and visits	100% of agreed tariff	Visits are unlimited; includes defined list of minor trauma procedures subject to network protocols  3 visits limited to R1 100 per family per year at any GP or casualty room; no benefit for out-patient facility fees, unless as specified in Annexure A: Emergency room treatment Member to pay upfront and claim from Scheme

NO	BENEFIT	REIMBURSEMENT RATE	ANNUAL LIMIT
2.	<b>Specialists (out of hospital)</b> Consultations, acute medicines, radiology and pathology as requested by network specialist	100% of agreed tariff	2 visits limited to R2 000 per family per year or R1 220 per event at a network specialist; subject to referral by a network GP and pre-authorisation
3.	<b>Physiotherapy</b>	100% of agreed tariff	Combined limit with out-of-hospital specialist benefit; subject to pre-authorisation and managed care protocols
4.	<b>Dentistry</b> (i) Basic/Conservative dentistry – fillings, extractions, X-rays, prophylaxis and pain relief (excludes root canal treatment)	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to network dental protocols
	(ii) Dentures	100% of agreed tariff	Subject to network dental protocols and specified benefits; only available to beneficiaries older than 21; a 24-month benefit cycle applies
	(iii) Specialised dentistry – orthodontics, periodontics, crowns, bridgework, dental implants and osseointegration	No benefit	No benefit
5.	<b>Acute medication</b> – medicines prescribed by medical practitioners, subject to the acute medication reference price list	100% of SEP plus agreed dispensing fee; excludes administration fee	Subject to network formulary  Medicines are obtainable at point of service from a dispensing network GP or via a prescription from a scripting GP at a Mediscor-enabled pharmacy  Network acute medicine formulary applies
6.	<b>Pharmacy-advised therapy (PAT)</b> – excluding contraceptives, homeopathic and naturopathic medicines, nutritional supplements and vitamins	100% of agreed tariff or SEP plus agreed dispensing fee; excludes administration fee	R110 per prescription, limited to R330 per family per year
7.	<b>Optical</b> (excludes tinting, coating, etc.) (i) Optometric tests	100% of agreed tariff	1 eye test per beneficiary every 24 months
	(ii) Spectacles: lenses and frames  OR  Contact Lenses	100% of agreed tariff	1 pair of white, standard monofocal or bifocal lenses in a standard frame up to the value of R222 every 24 months  OR  Contact lenses in lieu of spectacles limited to R580 every 24 months  Subject to network protocols and qualifying norms
8.	<b>External surgical appliances (out of hospital)</b> Hearing aids, orthopaedic boots, surgical collars, wheelchairs, nebulisers, oxygen equipment, etc.	100% of cost	PMBs only; limited to R6 020 per family; subject to pre-authorisation and clinical and funding protocols
9.	<b>Alternative services</b> Homeopaths, naturopaths, chiropractors, speech therapy, audiology, occupational therapy and podiatry	No benefit	No benefit



#### KEY:

- Agreed tariff** = The fees for any healthcare services which are determined by the Board of Trustees in conjunction with a network of service providers
- DSP** = Designated Service Provider is a network of service providers appointed by the Scheme as preferred providers to provide members with diagnosis, treatment and care in respect of one or more PMB conditions
- ICON** = The Independent Clinical Oncology Network (ICON) is a DSP for the provision of oncology benefits
- PMBs** = Prescribed Minimum Benefits are the minimum benefits that the Scheme is legally obliged to provide to its members in terms of the Medical Schemes Act
- Scheme rate** = The rate at which claims are reimbursed, as approved by the Board of Trustees
- SEP** = Single Exit Price is a price set by the manufacturer or importer of a medicine or scheduled substance, combined with a logistics fee and VAT
- UPFS** = Uniform Patient Fee Schedule, is the tariff structure used by provincial hospitals

## Annexure A:

List of out-patient surgical procedures covered under the overall annual limit

Out-patient surgical procedures, if performed in a doctor's surgery, are subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols, and will be covered from the overall annual limit. Anaesthetists' costs, if applicable, are covered for local/regional anaesthetic and conscious sedation. →



**Important!**

Out-patient surgical procedures, if performed in a doctor's surgery, are subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols.

PROCEDURES	CODES
Gastroscopy and related procedures	1587/88/89/91; 1626; 1770/72/73/74/78/79/82
Colonoscopy and related procedures	1653/54/56

The following additional procedures, if performed by an ophthalmologist in his/her rooms, are subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols, and will be covered from the overall annual limit.

PROCEDURES	CODES
Treatment of retina and choroids by cryotherapy	3039
Pan-retinal photocoagulation in one sitting	3041
Laser capsulotomy	3052
Laser trabeculoplasty	3064
Laser apparatus hire fee	3201

Please note that costs related to Lasik eye surgery are excluded from the benefit.

The following procedure, if performed in a doctor's surgery, is subject to pre-authorisation and managed care and funding protocols, and will be covered from the overall annual limit.

### PROCEDURE

Circumcision

## EMERGENCY ROOM TREATMENT

Emergency treatment in a trauma or casualty facility of a hospital, and all associated costs, where the treatment resulted in an admission to hospital, or was an emergency, or prevented a hospital admission, or where treatment could not be rendered in a doctor's rooms, will be paid from the in-hospital benefit, subject to overall annual limit.



## Annexure B:

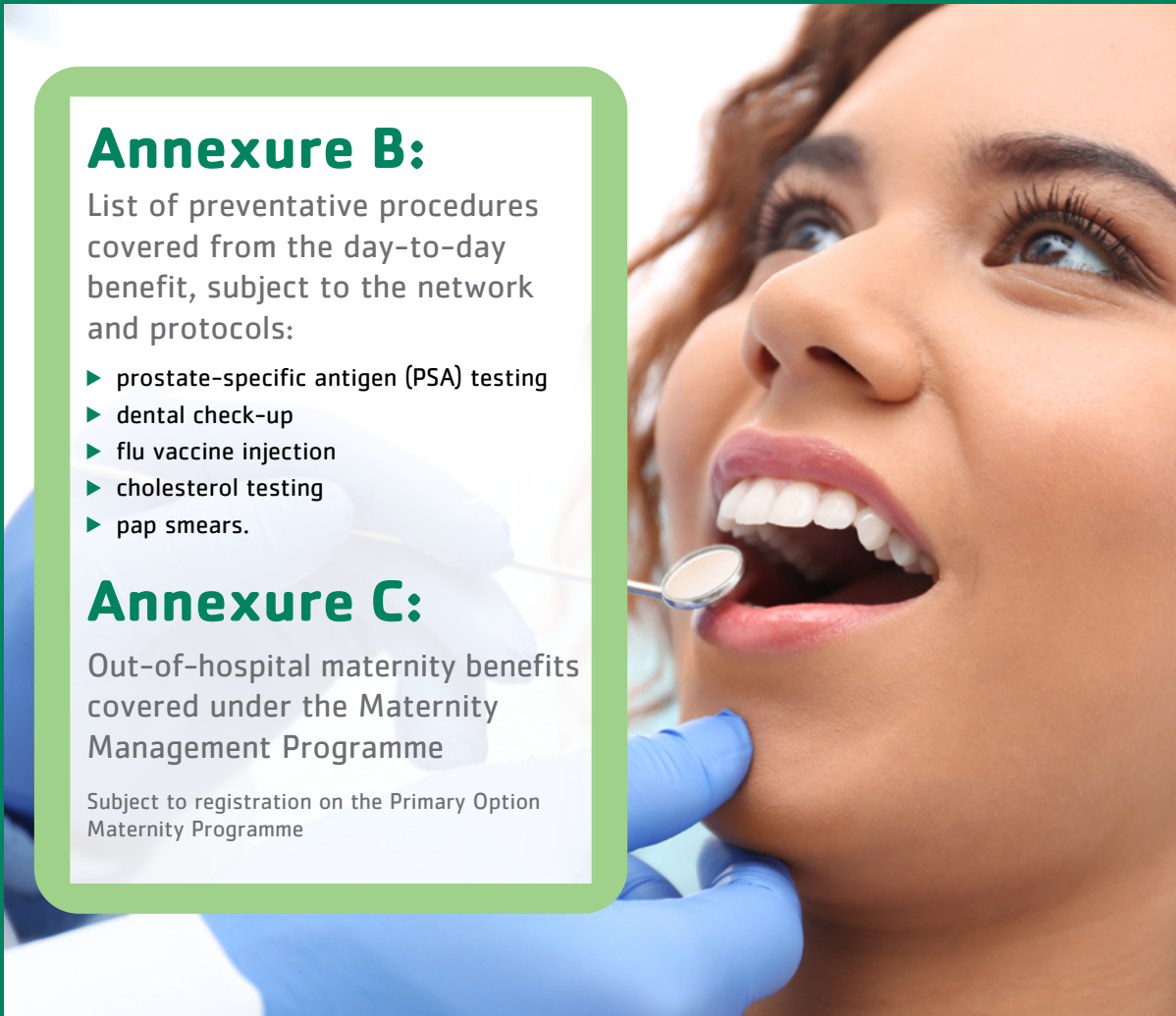
List of preventative procedures covered from the day-to-day benefit, subject to the network and protocols:

- ▶ prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing
- ▶ dental check-up
- ▶ flu vaccine injection
- ▶ cholesterol testing
- ▶ pap smears.

## Annexure C:

Out-of-hospital maternity benefits covered under the Maternity Management Programme

Subject to registration on the Primary Option Maternity Programme



### PROCEDURE

Routine blood tests for abnormalities as requested by the network GP

### CONDITIONS/REMARKS

The following tariff codes will be allowed: 4450; 3765; 3709; 3764; 3948/9; 3951



### Contact details

#### Client Services:

021 480 4801 or toll free on  
0800 004 389

#### Managed Care Programmes:

0860 767 633

**ER24:** 084 124

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