



## CIRCULAR

Reference: PMB Review  
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### **CIRCULAR 6 OF 2018: REVIEW OF THE PRESCRIBED MINIMUM BENEFITS -UPDATE AND CALL FOR INPUTS**

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) would like to provide stakeholders with an update on developments on the review of the Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMBs) project. Following the consultative meetings held with different stakeholders in July 2017, an Advisory Committee comprising individuals from different representative groups, was appointed. This was followed by a multi-stakeholder workshop in November 2017, where different stakeholders presented their views on challenges with the current package, including what they would like to see going forward.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, a meeting was held by the Advisory Committee where a draft framework for designing the service benefits package was discussed. The proposed framework (Annexure A) is an expansion of the proposal contained in [Circular 83 of 2016](#). Stakeholders are hereby invited to make further inputs (add other categories) on the proposed framework.

All Inputs should be emailed to [pmbreview@medicalschemes.com](mailto:pmbreview@medicalschemes.com) by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

**Dr. Siphon Kabane**  
**Acting CE & Registrar**  
**Council for Medical Schemes**

## **ANNEXURE A: PROPOSED SERVICE BENEFITS CATEGORIES**

The recommended framework proposes a departure from the current package which is disease/condition based, to a service based package. The proposed benefits will serve as a minimum package that must be available in a primary care setting, and a hospital setting. These categories will be expanded further to incorporate the specific service that should be covered, including the level of setting where the services should be accessed.

### **A: Maternal and Neonatal Services**

#### **A.1 Antenatal services**

- Diagnosis of pregnancy
- Information on nutrition and maintenance of a healthy diet throughout pregnancy
- Education and counselling on preparation for childbirth, newborn and child care, breast feeding, and emergency preparedness
- Pre-natal supplementation
- Immunisation for vaccine-preventable diseases
- Laboratory antenatal tests including screening for fetal abnormalities
- Radiology services including 2D pregnancy ultrasounds
- PMTCT

#### **A.2 Delivery services**

- Diagnosis and monitoring progress of labor and fetal well-being
- Delivery of uncomplicated and complicated pregnancies (including breech delivery and vaginal delivery after previous Caesarean section)
- Management of obstetric emergencies such as eclampsia, multiple pregnancies, cord prolapse etc.
- Caesarean section for high risk or complicated pregnancies (including breech delivery and vaginal delivery after previous Caesarean section, eclampsia, multiple pregnancies, cord prolapse etc.).
- Management of post-partum complications
- Immediate care of neonate and initiation of breastfeeding

#### **A.3 Post-natal services**

- Nutrition counselling and advice
- Breast and perineal care
- Continuation of education and counselling on newborn and child care
- Initiation or continuation of antiretroviral therapy for HIV

- Management of maternal complications

#### **A.4 Other services**

- Termination of pregnancy and post abortion care
- Medical management of high risk pregnancies such as Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Heart Failure Preeclampsia, etc.
- Medical management of mild to moderate pregnancy complications such as urinary infection, mild to moderate anaemia, vaginal infections
- Care post abortion and family planning

#### **A.5 Neonatal services**

- Management of neonates with complications including respiratory distress
- Examination, screening and management of congenital disorders
- Immunisation against vaccine preventable diseases according to the National Department of Health (NDoH) guidelines

#### **B: Child health services**

- Advice, information and assistance to mothers on breast feeding, weaning and active feeding
- Management and care of high risk babies and referral where necessary
- Immunisation against vaccine preventable diseases according to NDoH guidelines
- Oral rehydration therapy for diarrhoea
- Screening for common genetic disorders
- Screening for genetic metabolic and childhood cancers
- Screening for symptoms of child abuse and neglect
- Screening for eye diseases, vision and speech problems, and other abnormalities
- Growth monitoring and nutritional support (multivitamins) where indicated
- Oral health checks and health advice
- Deworming
- Provision of ARTs in children infected with HIV
- Treatment of opportunistic diseases
- Referral for further treatment where appropriate

### **C: Preventative services**

- Information on the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Information on early treatment seeking behaviour
- Screening for non-communicable diseases e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes, breast cancer
- Screening for communicable diseases e.g. tuberculosis, HIV
- Weight monitoring / screening (obesity and underweight)
- Nutritional advice and support
- Chemo-prophylaxis for selected diseases
- Family planning, advice and provision of contraceptives

### **D: Communicable and Non-communicable diseases services**

Screening and assessment of risk factors and co-morbidities

Initiation of early treatment

Screening and management of complications

Follow up and monitoring of treatment adherence

Interpretation of common laboratory and radiological results

Specialised geriatric care, including foot care

Referral to higher level of care when required

- Neurological conditions/ neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)
- Respiratory
- Cardiovascular
- Gastro-intestinal
- Musculoskeletal
- Dermatological
- Endocrinology
- Renal/Nephrology
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Oncology
- Haematology
- General surgery and Reconstruction surgery

## **E: Mental health services**

- Screening of patients in need of mental health and substance abuse care
- Admission, observation and treatment including psychotherapy
- Management of acute psychiatric cases and referral
- Management of substance withdrawal
- Post-trauma (e.g. rape) counselling with appropriate medical follow-up
- Referral to appropriate higher level of care when required
- Out of hospital management / continuation of care especially
- Laboratory and Radiology tests

## **F: Rehabilitation services**

- Diagnosis, medical management including occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy
- Surgical management of impairments
- Provision of basic assistive devices, including wheelchairs, walking aids, hearing aids, prostheses
- Preparation for the use, maintenance and servicing of assistive devices
- Education on and facilitated access to social grants, health and social services
- Counselling and/or education (psychosocial rehabilitation)
- Referral for further care when necessary

## **G: Palliative services**

- Identification and diagnosis of patients requiring palliative care
- Individualised palliative care management plan by a multidisciplinary team
- Provision of palliative care according to the coordinated care plan
- Referrals for symptom management
- Referrals to palliative care specialist
- Referrals for counselling for emotional support, spiritual or bereavement care
- Information & education to patient and family
- Referrals to home-based and community based palliative care services

## **H: Emergency services**

*“The sudden and, at the time, unexpected onset of a health condition that requires immediate medical or surgical treatment, where failure to provide medical or surgical treatment would result in serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part”.*

- Initial assessment and immediate stabilization
- Immediate management of emergencies
- Ultrasound, X-Rays and simple contrast studies
- Emergency laboratory tests (basic biochemical tests, haemoglobin, etc.)
- Emergency cross-match and supply of blood and blood products
- Referral and transport to higher level of care when required