

The White Paper on NHI was published in Notice 1231 in the Government Gazette No. 39506 on 11th December 2015.

National Health Insurance (NHI) is a health financing system designed to provide access to quality, affordable health care services for all South Africans based on their health needs, irrespective of their socioeconomic status through pooling of funds and risks. NHI is intended to ensure that the use of health services does not result in financial hardships for individuals and their families. NHI represents a substantial policy shift that will necessitate a massive reorganisation of the current health care system, both public and private and also derives its mandate from the National Development Plan (NDP) of the country.

NHI is a policy shift that will contribute towards poverty reduction and addressing the inequalities inherited from the past. NHI will be implemented over a fourteen year period in three phases.

As part of the public consultation process on the White Paper, the National Department of Health will be initiating a programme of stakeholder consultation meetings. These meetings will commence in February 2016.

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