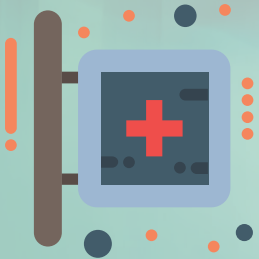


What is wrong with the current health system?



The current system is inherently inefficient. Too many people are reliant of public healthcare, but the biggest portion of the money spent in healthcare goes to the private health care providers who serve only around 14 percent of the population.

Furthermore, because the private healthcare service providers serve only a few, they are forced to increase costs while reducing cover. And in the process the medical aid schemes transfer these costs to the patients. Public health care facilities are under intense pressure and experience long queues and shortage of beds while facilities in the private health facilities are under-utilised because only a few people can afford them.

When the NHI Fund pays for everyone's healthcare the Fund will buy from the nearest provider and so distribute the workload.

FACTS ABOUT NHI



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

What is NHI?



NHI is a Fund from which the government will buy health care services for all of us who live in the country from health care providers in the public sector and private sector.

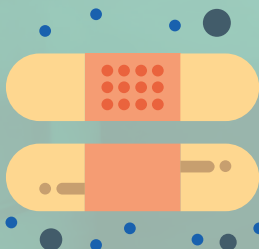
This means when you feel unwell, you can go to your nearest General Practitioner or clinic of your choice that has a contract with NHI and not pay for the care that you get because it is already paid for by the Fund.

Why do we need NHI?



1. To achieve universal health coverage, which means that we get the health care that we need, when we need it, where we need it and without getting into financial trouble paying for it.
2. To improve the quality of healthcare because NHI is concerned about our healthcare really dealing with our health and not just with the appearances of where we are cared for.
3. To end the gross inequality in healthcare provision because health is a human right and every person's health is as important as the next person's.

How will NHI affect me as a patient?



1. As a patient, you will be able to go to the nearest health care facility of your choice, public or private, enrol, and receive services without being expected to pay.
2. You need not worry about the shrinking cover of your current medical aid, under NHI your cover for NHI benefits will not be exhausted.
3. There will be no co-payments when you seek the medical treatment that is covered by the Fund.

How will NHI affect me as a Doctor or General Practitioner?



1. The number of patients who consult you may increase because cost will no longer be a factor once your reimbursement is covered by the NHI.
2. This should be a particular benefit for GPs in economically depressed areas where the majority of patients have no medical aid.
3. Your patients will still choose to enrol with you for you to be their primary caregiver.
4. When you refer patients to specialists they will remain your patients as a part of your capitation reimbursement.

Under NHI, will private healthcare providers still be allowed to function?



YES. Private health providers such as private GPs, private healthcare facilities will be encouraged to function.

Private providers stand to benefit from NHI. Currently they serve only a minority who have medical aid but once NHI comes into operation they will be able to offer their services to all people because everybody will be covered by the NHI.

If NHI is as good as it sounds, why can't it be voluntary so that those who want to keep their private medical aid should be able to do so?

The success on the NHI is based on the stokvel-type model. The more people you have participating, the stronger the fund. It is cross-subsidy with the healthy subsidizing the sick, the young subsidizing the elderly, the employed subsidizing the unemployed and the rich subsidizing the poor. It is social solidarity to attain Universal Health Coverage.