

#### Dear Member,

As we embark on a new year, we must face the realities and possibilities of our financial landscape with unwavering conviction and resolve. The year began with our economy under greylisting, a crucial reminder of the importance of financial prudence, especially when securing essential services like quality healthcare.

At Medshield Medical Scheme, we have been unwavering in our commitment to delivering the best possible value for your money. Our primary aim is to strike a delicate balance between affordability, improved access to healthcare, and providing high-quality care while we ensure the long-term sustainability of the Scheme.

Our response to the economic climate and rising healthcare inflation led us to make strategic decisions that ensure our members can continue to access the healthcare they need without shouldering an unreasonable financial burden. For 2024, we have funded a portion of the necessary increases from our reserves, allowing us to announce an 8.9% average weighted increase, with a 0% contribution increase on some of our plans.

Sound strategic decisions and prudent financial management have allowed us to maintain a robust financial position, ensuring that we can meet our obligations to pay members' claims whether a sudden pandemic or economic challenge strikes or not. This also empowers us to innovate and offer more benefits and choices to our valued members.

At Medshield, we value our partnerships with our members, healthcare providers, and brokers. We're proud to have been recognised as a Top Employer in South Africa, a testament to our commitment to our people, which extends to you, our members and our broker partners. With our AA- Global rating, we can proudly reaffirm our ability to pay our members' claims.

We firmly believe that technology makes healthcare more accessible and affordable for all South Africans. Our evolving SmartCare Digital Healthcare Ecosystem offers quicker access to quality healthcare through telemedicine and virtual consultations, available from the comfort of your home or private space.



## Your **2024** Benefits

We are happy to announce that besides Clicks Pharmacies being a current Medshield Designated Service Provider, we are also introducing 123 Clicks clinics nationwide onto the SmartCare Network. The addition of the Clicks clinics provides our members with more access to the SmartCare nurse-led FP video consultations network. We also provide the option for hospital-level treatment at home through our 24/7 digital monitoring and personal care.

Medshield has been redefining healthcare in South Africa for over 56 years. We offer nine tailored healthcare options reinforced by comprehensive hospital cover, a network of respected healthcare professionals and resources to support your health journey at every stage of your life.

As we navigate the healthcare landscape, Medshield is your steadfast Partner for Life. We are dedicated to ensuring you and your dependents receive the quality healthcare you deserve. Our 2024 offerings are a testament to this commitment.

Your 2024 **MediCore Benefit Guide** is available for download from the Medshield website at **www.medshield.co.za/products-2024/2024-benefit-options/**, or call your Broker or our trusted Contact Centre on 086 000 2120.

In a world where healthcare is non-negotiable, choose Medshield Medical Scheme as your healthcare Partner for Life. We're here to restore confidence in tomorrow and provide peace of mind as you navigate life's journey.

Thank you for trusting us to take care of your healthcare needs. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024 and beyond.

#### **Medshield Medical Scheme**

#### A GLIMPSE OF WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2024:

- A refined product offering, addressing the feedback received from our brokers and members, and enhancing the Medshield basket of options (subject to CMS approval).
- An average 5% increase in specified benefits across all options.
- Unlocking additional Paediatric consultations to enhance the MedshieldMOM programme on relevant options.
- A continued focus on preventative screening, with additional benefits to support your wellness.
- A reduction in certain co-payments to alleviate the financial burden on our members.







## **Option Changes**

# Choose the right plan for you and your family

The Scheme Rules allow for benefit option changes with effect 1 January 2024. Should you choose not to change your benefit option, you will automatically remain on your current option for 2024.

Understanding the exact benefits of the option you are considering (including prescribed minimum benefits, chronic medication and the medicine formulary, Day-to-Day, dental, optical benefits, and hospitalisation), is a task best undertaken with the advice and guidance of your financial advisor. Changing to a lower benefit option will result in fewer benefits and there may be a significant impact on how your chronic medication will be covered as opposed to the formularies used by your previous option. This could lead to more out-of-pocket expenses due to certain medication/s not covered on your new option and certain benefit limits on certain options only cover PMBs, meaning that non-PMB conditions and or procedures will not be covered.

It is also important to consider the choice of network providers, as certain benefit options allow you to choose freely while other options are network-restricted. Please ensure that you have read and understand the benefits of your selected option together with your financial advisor to ensure your choice of benefit option best suits your medical and financial needs before you make your selection.

It is important that you send your request to change your option by 31 December 2023, by downloading and completing the Option Change form available under the 'Member/Scheme forms for members' tab on www.medshield.co.za. Option changes will not be considered after the deadline. Should you opt to change your option, consult the detailed Product 2024 benefit guides and contribution tables available on the website at www.medshield.co.za to ensure your choice of benefit option best suits your medical and financial needs.

Our corporate employer members must submit the completed form to their HR department to ensure that the request is captured accordingly for the January 2024 contribution adjustment to take place via payroll. Once the changes have taken place, your HR representative will stamp, sign the form and submit your request to the Scheme via e-mail to optionchange@medshield.co.za.

We encourage our members who want to change their benefit option to do so by 15 December 2023 to ensure that the Scheme deducts the correct contribution due for January 2024. Should your option change reach us after 15 December 2023, there's a possibility that the Scheme may only deduct the correct amount as per your chosen benefit option in February 2024. In the event that your option change results in a credit due to you, the credit will be offset against your February 2024 contribution.

Please note that the Scheme will not refund these credits directly into your bank account.

### **Your 2024 MediSaver Contributions**



The MediSaver average contribution increase will be 8.9% from 1 January 2024 and includes strong benefit enhancements.

The monthly contribution includes a risk contribution and a savings portion. Your Personal Savings Allocation is 15% of your monthly contributions. For ease of reference, the tables below provide the 2023/2024 comparison between the risk contribution and the savings contribution respectively, as well as the total 2024 contribution.

#### Risk Contribution (without savings):

TYPE OF BENEFICIARY	2023 CONTRIBUTION	2024 CONTRIBUTION	CHANGE (Rand)	CHANGE (%)
Principal Member	R3 532	R3 845	R314	8.9%
Adult Dependant	R2 925	R3 185	R260	8.9%
Child*	R859	R936	R77	8.9%

#### Savings Contribution:

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TYPE OF BENEFICIARY	2023 SAVINGS	2024 SAVINGS	CHANGE (Rand)	CHANGE (%)	
Principal Member	R623	R679	R55	8.9%	
Adult Dependant	R516	562	R46	8.9%	
Child*	R152	R165	R14	8.9%	

#### Total Contribution (Risk and Savings):

TYPE OF BENEFICIARY	2023 CONTRIBUTION	2024 CONTRIBUTION	CHANGE (Rand)	CHANGE (%)	
Principal Member	R4 155	R4 524	R369	8.9%	
Adult Dependant	R3 441	R3 747	R306	8.9%	
Child*	R1 011	R 1 101	R90	8.9%	

\*Contribution rate is applicable to the member's first, second and third biological or legally adopted children only, excluding students.

**Please note:** The contributions above exclude any applicable Late Joiner Penalties that may be applied to your membership.

## 2024 Benefits & Contribution Adjustments

BENEFIT DESCRIPTION		
Adult Vaccination	Limit increased to R470 per family	
Alternatives to Hospitalisation	Limit increased to R77 850 per family	
Alternatives to Hospitalisation: Terminal Care Benefit	Sub-limit increased to R43 200 per family	
Appliances: General, Medical and Surgical	Limit increased to R11 600 per family	
Appliances: Peak flow meters, Glucometers and Blood pressure monitors	Sub-limit increased to <b>R930</b> per beneficiary subject to the appliance benefit	
Chronic Renal Dialysis	Limit increased to R309 100 per family	
Contraception: Medication (Oral Birth Control)	Limit increased to R210 per month per female beneficiary	
Dentistry: Specialised	Limit increased to R14 550 per family	
HIV & Aids: Antiretroviral and related medication	Reduced co-payment	
Maternity: Out-of-Hospital Paediatric Consultations for beneficiaries under 2 years old	2 Visits per beneficiary	
Maxillo-Facial Surgery	Limit increased to R21 950 per family	
Medication: Chronic	Reduced co-payment	
Medication: Discharge from Hospital - TTO	Limit increased to R760 per admission	
Medication: Pharmacy Advised Therapy	Script limit increased to R270 per script	
Mental Health: In- and Out-of-Hospital	Limit increased to R48 700 per family	
Mental Health: Consultations and Visits Out-of-Hospital	Sub-limit increased to R5 850 per family	
Mental Health: Rehabilitation for Substance Abuse	Sub-limit increased to R17 300 per family	
Oncology Limit	Limit increased to R389 100 per family	
Oncology: Medication	Sub-limit increased to <b>R259 500</b> per family subject to the Oncology limit	
Oncology: PET Scans	Sub-limit increased to R24 700 per family	
Oncology: Breast Reconstruction	Limit increased to R98 800 per family	
Optical: Readers	Limit increased to R200	
Organ, Tissue & Haemopoietic Stem Cell (Bone Marrow) Transplantation including Hospitalisation	Limit increased to R309 100 per family	
Organ, Tissue & Haemopoietic Stem Cell (Bone Marrow) Transplantation: Corneal Grafts and Transplants	Limit increased to <b>R48 950</b> International <b>R21 000</b> Local	
Physiotherapy: In-Hospital	Limit increased to R3 100 per beneficiary	
Prosthesis and Devices: Internal	Limit increased to R51 500 per family	
Prosthesis and Devices: Internal - Hips and Knees	Sub-limit increased to R37 300 per beneficiary	
Refractive Surgery	Limit increased to R10 900 per family	
Specialised Radiology: In- and Out-of-Hospital	Limit increased to R23 100 per family	
Wellness: PSA Screening	1 test per male beneficiary between 50 - 69 years	

# 2024 Benefits & Contribution Adjustments



#### The following services will attract upfront co-payments:

Specialised Drugs for Oncology, non-Oncology and Biological Drugs

Non-PMB Internal Prosthesis and Devices

Voluntary use of a non-Compact Network Hospital

Voluntary use of a non-Compact Network Hospital - Mental Health

Voluntary use of a non-Compact Network Hospital - Organ, Tissue and Haemopoietic stem cell

(Bone marrow) transplant

Voluntary use of a non-DSP for HIV & AIDS related medication

Voluntary use of a non-DSP or a non-Medshield Pharmacy Network

Voluntarily obtained out of formulary medication

Voluntary use of a non-DSP provider - Chronic Renal Dialysis

Voluntary use of a non-ICON provider - Oncology

20% upfront co-payment

25% upfront co-payment

25% upfront co-payment

25% upfront co-payment

25% upfront co-payment

30% upfront co-payment

30% upfront co-payment

30% upfront co-payment

40% upfront co-payment

40% upfront co-payment

#### In-Hospital and Day Clinic Procedural upfront co-payments for non-PMB

Endoscopic procedures (refer to **Addendum B\***)

Hernia Repair (except in infants)

Laparoscopic procedures

Arthroscopic procedures

Wisdom Teeth extraction in a Day Clinic

Impacted Teeth, Wisdom Teeth and Apicectomy

Nissen Fundoplication

Hysterectomy

Functional Nasal surgery

Back and Neck surgery

R1 500 upfront co-payment

R3 000 upfront co-payment

R3 500 upfront co-payment

R3 500 upfront co-payment

R1 575 upfront co-payment

R3 500 upfront co-payment

R5 000 upfront co-payment

R5 000 upfront co-payment

R5 000 upfront co-payment

R7 000 upfront co-payment

Please note: Failure to obtain an authorisation prior to hospital admission or surgery and/or treatment (except for an emergency), will attract a 20% penalty, in addition to the above co-payments.

\*No In-Hospital Endoscopic procedural co-payment applicable for children 8 years and younger.

The Medshield Specialist Network list shall be as designated in writing by the Scheme from time to time.

Medshield Medical Scheme Rules indicate that a member is entitled to change from one benefit option to another provided that the change is made with effect 1 January of any financial year, therefore mid-year option changes are not permitted.





