

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 PremiumPlus Contributions



The PremiumPlus contribution increase will be on average 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 20% of your monthly contributions. For ease of reference, the tables below provide the 2023/24 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 | R5 760 | R6 274 | R514 | 8.9% |
| Adult Dependant | R5 278 | R5 748 | R470 | 8.9% |
| Child* | R1 102 | R1 200 | R98 | 8.9% |

Savings Contribution:

| outings contribution. | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| TYPE OF BENEFICIARY | 2023 SAVINGS | 2024 SAVINGS | CHANGE (Rand) | CHANGE (%) |
| Principal Member | R1 440 | R1 568 | R128 | 8.9% |
| Adult Dependant | R1 319 | R1 437 | R118 | 8.9% |
| Child* | R275 | R300 | R25 | 8.9% |

Total Contribution (Risk and Savings):

| TYPE OF BENEFICIARY | 2023 CONTRIBUTION | 2024 CONTRIBUTION | CHANGE (Rand) | CHANGE (%) |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Principal Member | R7 200 | R7 842 | R642 | 8.9% |
| Adult Dependant | R6 597 | R7 185 | R588 | 8.9% |
| Child* | R1 377 | R1 500 | R123 | 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 and Travel Vaccination | Limit increased to R1 885 per family |
| Alternatives to Hospitalisation | Limit increased to R156 000 per family |
| Alternatives to Hospitalisation: Terminal Care Benefit | Sub-limit increased to R43 500 per family |
| Appliances: General, Medical and Surgical | Limit increased to R7 350 per family |
| Appliances: Peak flow meters, Nebulizers, Glucometers and Blood pressure monitors (Motivation required) | Sub-limit increased to R930 per beneficiary subject to the Appliance benefit |
| Contraception: Medication (Oral Birth Control) | Limit increased to R210 per month per female beneficiary |
| Dentistry: Specialised | Limit increased to R21 400 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 400 per family |
| Medication: Chronic | Limit increased to R34 650 per family and R17 325 per beneficiary. Reduced co-payment |
| Medication: Discharge from Hospital - TTO | Limit increased to R930 per admission |
| Medication: Pharmacy Advised Therapy | Script limit increased to R270 per script |
| Mental Health: In- and Out-of-Hospital | Limit increased to R64 850 per family |
| Mental Health: Consultations and Visits: In-Hospital | Limit increased to R5 850 per family |
| Mental Health: Rehabilitation for Substance Abuse | Limit increased to R17 300 per family |
| Oncology: Specialised Drugs | Sub-limit increased to R412 500 per family |
| Oncology: PET and PET-CT Scan | Limit increased to R26 220 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: Corneal Grafts and Transplants | Limit increased to R48 950 (International), R21 000 (Local) |
| Physiotherapy: In-Hospital | Limit increased to R3 100 per beneficiary |
| Prosthesis and Devices: Internal | Limit increased to R73 450 per family |
| Prosthesis and Devices: Internal Surgically Implanted - Hips and Knees | Sub-limit increased to R37 300 per beneficiary |
| Refractive Surgery | Limit increased to R21 000 per family |
| Specialised Radiology: In- and Out-of-Hospital | Limit increased to R31 200 per family |
| Threshold Benefit - Out-of-Hospital | Member R22 500 Adult Dependant R20 800 Child Dependant R4 200 * |
| Wellness: PSA Screening | 1 test per male beneficiary between 50 - 69 years |
| | |

^{*} Maximum Child Dependant Accumulation to the Threshold and Above Threshold Benefit Amount will be limited to three children

2024 Benefits & Contribution Adjustments



The following services will attract upfront co-payments:

| Non-PMB Internal Prosthesis and Devices Voluntary use of a non-DSP for HIV & AIDS related medication Voluntarily obtained out of formulary medication Voluntary use of a non-DSP or a non-Medshield Pharmacy Network Voluntary use of a non-DSP provider - Chronic Renal Dialysis Voluntary use of a non-ICON provider - Oncology In-Hospital and Day Clinic Procedural upfront co-payments for non-PMB | 25% upfront co-payment 30% upfront co-payment 30% upfront co-payment 30% upfront co-payment 40% upfront co-payment 40% upfront co-payment | |
|--|---|--|
| Endoscopic procedures (refer to Addendum B*) | R1 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Functional Nasal surgery | R1 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Laparoscopic procedures | R2 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Arthroscopic procedures | R2 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Wisdom Teeth extraction in a Day Clinic | R900 upfront co-payment | |
| Impacted Teeth, Wisdom Teeth and Apicectomy | R2 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Hernia Repair (except in infants) | R3 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Back and Neck surgery | R4 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Nissen Fundoplication | R5 000 upfront co-payment | |
| Hysterectomy | R5 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.





