

16 April 2021

BOARD OF HEALTHCARE FUNDERS (BHF) AND PRACTICE CODE NUMBERING SYSTEM (PCNS)

BACKGROUND

BHF is the representative organization which medical schemes may voluntarily belong to.

Registration with BHF

BHF'S Decision not to issue practice numbers

- **BHF has stopped allocating PCNS numbers to Agencies in 2012**, allegedly, at the bidding of the Department of Health.
- Regulation 1 of the Medical Schemes Act no 131 1998 defines it as “the number allocated to a supplier of a relevant health service as a practice number, as an organization or body approved by the Medical Schemes (CMS)”.
- It is in terms of this provision that CMS has tasked BHF with the responsibility of allotting practice numbers to supplier Health Services.
- The position stands, until reversed by a competent court or by the appeals Board of the Council for Medical Schemes.

Evergreen Health, established in 2018 has partnered with other Healthcare organizations, enabling residents to claim medical services directly from their Medical Aid Funder if Pre-Authorized.

Process:

- Contact your Evergreen Health Clinic to discuss the service required. We will advise on a case-by-case basis depending on our partnership arrangements and your medical aid.
- Evergreen Health or the medical service provider would apply for authorization from your medical aid e.g., Wound Care.
- We would require a motivation letter from your doctor in some cases, motivating the services if required over time.
- Once authorized, Evergreen Health would then deliver the services required, including updating the medical aid, and manage extended authorization when needed.

Frail Care:

Legislative Requirements: Licensed with the Department of Social Development

- Frail Care or any kind of assisted living, is considered a social welfare responsibility.
- Closed Medical schemes (e.g., Anglo Gold/ Profmed and Bankmed) may assist in monthly contributions, but the benefits are only for “medically related frail-care services” which means they would only contribute for recovering from an illness, injury or surgery.
- While medical aid schemes may not cover accommodation and care in a Care Centre for frail care or memory care, any chronic medication, visits by a doctor, as well as the cost of various appliances, may still be paid by the scheme in line with the particular package benefits.
- Open medical aids do not contribute towards frail care.
- Post-Op Care/ Rehabilitative Care (Stroke or Accident), such short-term help could be covered by medical aid, but cost for longer term accommodation in a Frail Care Facility is rare.

Please contact your Evergreen clinic to discuss any queries around support services and possible options.



Elize Porter – Managing Director Evergreen Health

Evergreen Health (Pty) Ltd | Reg No. 2018/041239/07

Directors: D Pienaar, JE Porter, G Reed