

PRESS RELEASE

BPOMAS REVISION OF MEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT BY DISPENSING DOCTORS

The BPOMAS (Botswana Public Officers' Medical Aid Scheme) Management Committee wishes to inform all its members that BPOMAS is undertaking an exercise to harmonize its medicine reimbursement / payment policies, with good professional practice and dispensing standards, as well as aligning same to the Medicines Related Substance Act (MRA) of 2013 and to help ensure safe and quality supply of medicines to its beneficiaries.

1. The MRA of 2013 was fully enacted in February 2017 and your attention is drawn to the following:
 - 1.1. Part IV, Section 28.4 of the MRA of 2013 further states that "The import, export, distribution or sale of medicines in terms of this section shall be under the continuous supervisory control of a pharmacist ..."
 - 1.2. Part VII Section 38 of the MRA of 2013: Classification and descriptions of medicines
 - 1.2.1. This Section classifies medicines that are registered for human use and available in Botswana into four (4) schedules / classes: Schedule 1 (and its sub-schedules), Schedule 2, Schedule 3 and Schedule 4
 - 1.2.2. Schedules 1 and 2 human medicines are medicines that may be dispensed only upon a written prescription by an authorised prescriber (e.g. medical doctor or a health professional as may be authorised by the Director of Health Services), and must be kept in a pharmacy under the control of a registered pharmacist
 - 1.2.3. Schedule 3 human medicines are those that may be sold from a pharmacy without a prescription
 - 1.2.4. Schedule 4 human medicines may be sold by any licensed trader
 - 1.2.5. The dispensing of Schedules 1, 2 and 3 human medicines must be by a registered pharmacist
2. In line with the above, BPOMAS has found it necessary to align its reimbursement policies to the provisions of the Medicines and Related Substances Act of 2013 (MRSA) – To this end, BPOMAS has revised its policies, such that, the Scheme will only reimburse for medicines dispensed from;
 - 2.1. Community and hospital pharmacies duly authorized to do so
 - 2.2. Dispensing Medical Practitioners that would have been assessed by BPOMAS for eligibility to dispense, in line with the ACT and a criteria that will take into account access to medicines by BPOMAS beneficiaries
3. Please note that in an effort to ensure continued access to medicine by members and their beneficiaries at all times, BPOMAS has made provision for a limited benefit under the acute medicines limit. The special dispensation allows medical practitioners to dispense, up to the defined limit, in case a member or his/her beneficiary requires a limited supply of acute medicines in an emergency situation. Furthermore, BPOMAS has made provision for access to medicines in areas where there may not be a pharmacy available.
4. This therefore serves to inform you that, effective **01 August 2017**,:
 - BPOMAS will not reimburse for ART, Chronic Illness and Dread Disease (DD) prescriptions when dispensed by a Medical Practitioner who is on a non-dispensing status. Members are advised/encouraged to source the medicines in question from a pharmacy
 - For, acute medicines, BPOMAS will reimburse on an annual basis for medicines dispensed by a Medical Practitioner who is on a non-dispensing status (as determine per paragraph 2) up to a medicine limit of P750 per family per annum.
5. Please note that the changes referred to above to do not change the overall medicine benefit.

In the mean time you may contact the Administrator at: +267 3650570 / 3650574 (Ms Matshediso Matome)

We look forward to your usual cooperation.

Thank you



THULAGANYO MOLEBATSI



BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS'
MEDICAL AID SCHEME

Your health is our concern!