



NPPF SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear NPPF Members,

NPPF would like to update you on the September happenings and engagements on behalf of Healthcare Providers.

1. NAMAFA seems to have defined their new strategic objective for the next three years. The strategic objective is to act as **Clinical Governance Regulator**. According to information that we received NAMAFA entered into a Memorandum of agreement with Funds and NAMFISA to position itself to curb the drivers of cost being identified as utilisation especially hospitals. These are the goals to be addressed until 2026. In concrete terms NAMAFA is supposed to regulate Funds and enters into an agreement with them. NAMFISA is supposed to regulate the Funds and enters into an agreement with NAMAFA - the regulator of Funds. At that point NAMAFA interpreted its role as clinical risk manager. This invariable will cause friction once again as HCP's will rightfully disagree, we certain provisions. We expect thus an increase in complaints and will continue to search for alternatives.
2. A Principal Officer of a medical aid fund explained in a video that the NAMAFA Benchmark tariffs were derived by negotiation and are just. Dr Sophia van Rooyen challenged this notion and had since held further talks place the matter in perspective. There remains a significant disconnect between the views of funder and HCP's. Mutual distrust is one of the core issues which needs to be bridged. The narrative "Fraud, Waste and Abuse" remains central. Unfortunately, some rumours reach us from trustworthy sources that seem to support this narrative. NPPF is happy to inform HCP's that the video was since removed.

3. NPPF responded on behalf of HCP's to the NHP/Medscheme document titled **Understanding the Medscheme Audit Process**. This process entails severe risks to HCP's to be targeted at will under the guise of anonymity and compels them to release patient data and records for Medscheme to investigate according to their protocol. NHP indicated that they will respond to these concerns.
4. During our last correspondence NPPF informed HCP's that NAMFISA confirmed that they already approved the changes of the Fund rules last year to tie reimbursement of services to an ICD-10 code. NAMFISA has since responded claiming *functus officio* (which refers to an officer or agency whose mandate has expired, due to either the arrival of an expiry date or an agency having accomplished the purpose for which it was created). This is a legal term that is brandished out of context as NAMFISA is a regulator with ongoing duty and responsibility. NAMFISA confirmed thus that the ICD-10 system as a precondition of payment will be implemented as its **intention is to curb Fraud, Waste and Abuse**. NPPF was advised to contact NAMAF to find an amiable solution. Such advice was not very helpful as we have done so for years without convincing them that ICD-10 will not curb Fraud, Waste and Abuse.
5. NAMFISA also conferred that the Financial Institutions and Market Act 2 of 2021 (FIM) will soon be enacted. This Act even though it is still inactive has some flaws that requires redress such as retaining the dreaded Section 12 (k) that will still provide NAMAF with unlimited power. All the concerns will be raised with NAMFISA
6. While NPPF responded critically to comments from the NHSP in a previous communication this should not be construed as being opposed to what the NHSP stands for and tries to achieve. NPPF remains committed to cooperation and unity between all associations and HCP's in order to promote and safeguard the interests of the health professions.
7. NPPF has embarked on a process to develop a website, to facilitate communication with members and the industry. A big word of thanks to Dr Nura Afshani for all her dedication and input in facilitating the development of the web site. You will be informed once it is active.

8. NPPF remains dedicated to finding solutions to create a more prosperous healthcare environment. There is most sincere appreciation for the support we receive from our support staff Jadri Becker and Tannie Hester who for years committed themselves to the HCP's cause. Our director's contributions are equally invaluable. All of this would not be possible without the loyal support and financial contributions of our most valued members. Thank you to all of you! A big word of thanks is also extended to all other Associations and their members who work with dedication towards creating a better disposition!
9. We need to remind ourselves that in the words of Socrates: *"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."* Unfortunately, we still need to do some fighting to pave the way for building the new.

NPPF has always an open-door policy for its members. Please feel free to contact us if you find it difficult to resolve issues that arise from interaction with funders.

On that note wishing you all a hassle-free engagement with the various stakeholders!

Kind regards

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