

APPEAL COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL SCHEMES

In the matter between:

A

Appellant

and

REGISTRAR OF MEDICAL SCHEMES

First Respondent

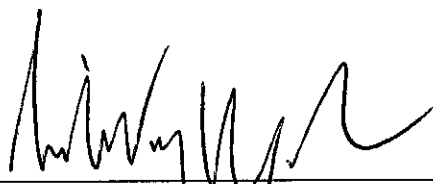
DISCOVERY HEALTH MEDICAL SCHEME

Second Respondent

RULING

- 1 This is an appeal against the ruling of the registrar's office in which it affirmed the scheme's decision to refuse to refund the member expenditure incurred at a drug rehabilitation facility in circumstances where the service provider's account did not contain a practice number or ICD codes.
- 2 The member contends that her son's admission and treatment at the facility had been pre-authorised by the scheme. But this is no guarantee that the scheme will make payment when accounts are submitted. What pre-authorisation means is that the admission and procedure accords with the scheme's funding protocol.

- 3 Regulation 5 of the Medical Schemes Act, 131 of 1998, read together with section 59 of that Act, requires that service providers' accounts contain, among other things, *"the practice code number, group practice number and individual provider registration number issued by the registering authorities for providers, if applicable, of the supplier of service ..."* and *"the relevant diagnostic and such other item code numbers that relate to such relevant health service"*.
- 4 The member paid directly to the service provider and submitted its account to the scheme. The account contained neither the practice code number nor the ICD codes. For that reason, the scheme is entitled to refuse to make payment.
- 5 In the result the appeal cannot succeed.



18 MARCH 2011

VUYANI NGALIWANA for Appeal Committee*For the scheme:* K Mayet; Dr D Padayachee*For the member:* Ms A.*For the registrar:* A Singh*Date of hearing:* 11 February 2011*Date of Ruling:* 07 March 2011