



RULINGS ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

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N v DISCOVERY HEALTH MEDICAL SCHEME

The complaint concerned the Scheme's decision to decline funding of Saxenda® from the Chronic Illness benefit (CIB) for the Member's Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMB) condition. The Member submitted that the Scheme refused to fund her medication from CIB despite the evidence provided by the healthcare practitioner of its clinical appropriateness.

In response to the complaint, the Scheme indicated that it received the CIB funding request of Saxenda® for the diagnosis of ICD-10 code E88.8 *Other specified metabolic disorders*. This diagnosis is a PMB condition under PMB provision 901K *Life-threatening congenital abnormalities of carbohydrate, lipid, protein and amino acid metabolism* with stipulated treatment as *Medical management*. It subsequently declined the request as Saxenda® is not PMB level of care for the said condition. Furthermore, Saxenda® is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and as per the its CIB Protocol, funding of GLP-1s will be considered for Diabetic Type 2 members, as add on therapy, subject to them meeting clinical entry criteria as informed by the Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) guidelines. It noted that within the letter of motivation from the Member's Doctor, Saxenda® will also be used for weight loss and this is a General Scheme Exclusion. Furthermore, the Scheme noted that the Member has Metabolic Syndrome and Insulin Resistance, these conditions are not PMBs, and their treatment cannot be funded as such.

The issue that fell for determination was whether the Scheme was correct in declining funding of Saxenda® from the CIB or PMB.

Upon investigation, the submissions made by the Member and the Scheme were reviewed. The complaint was referred to our Clinical Review Committee ("CRC") for clinical opinion. CRC confirmed that the Member's diagnosis is not PMB under "ENDOCRINE, METABOLIC AND NUTRITIONAL" Diagnosis and Treatment Pairs (DTPs). Furthermore, the CRC alluded that as the Member's conditions are not PMBs, Saxenda® is not PMB level of care.

In the absence of a PMB confirmation, Scheme's rules apply. The Member's medication was to be funded from the Medical Savings Account as per the Scheme's rules and available benefits.

It was to this end that a ruling was issued confirming that the Scheme was correct in declining funding of Saxenda® from the CIB. The complaint was dismissed.