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C v FEDHEALTH MEDICAL SCHEME

The complaint concerned the Scheme's decision to decline funding of Enzalutamide for the member's condition.

The Complainant submitted that the member was diagnosed with prostate cancer and Enzalutamide was prescribed as treatment of his condition and the Scheme declined to fund the prescribed treatment.

In responding to the complaint, the Scheme submitted that funding of Chemotherapy (Abiraterone) was declined since the member does not have specialised drug benefit on his benefit option.

Upon investigation, the submissions made by both the Complainant and the Scheme were reviewed and referred to the CMS Clinical Review Committee for a clinical opinion and confirmation of the PMB status of the Complainant's for the condition. The outcome of the clinical review confirmed that the member's condition is included in the PMB Regulations, but the treatment requested is not considered PMB level of care for the member's condition. The CRC confirmed that *"in the 2021 PMB benefit guideline: Prostate Cancer v1 published by the Council for Medical Schemes, Abiraterone and Enzalutamide are currently not recommended as PMB level of care for metastatic prostate cancer."* Further that, Regulation 151(c) of the Act is not applicable in this case. Therefore, the Scheme cannot be compelled to fund Enzalutamide as treatment of the member's condition.

A ruling was therefore issued confirming the Scheme's decision to be correct. The complaint was accordingly dismissed.