



CIRCULAR

Reference: Interim update of PMB benefit for PET-CT scan in locally advanced & metastatic breast cancer
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Circular 11 of 2025: Interim consideration of PET Scan as a PMB for selective patients with breast cancer

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) aims to update stakeholders on an interim revision regarding the Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) coverage of Positron Emission Tomography - Computed Tomography (PET-CT) scans in the management of locally advanced and metastatic breast cancer.
- 1.2 This revision is being implemented as an interim measure pending the formal revision of the Benefit Definition and is aligned with the National Department of Health's [Breast Cancer Control Policy \(2017\)](#). The policy highlights the importance of the appropriate assessment of metastatic disease in breast cancer patients, including the selective utilisation of PET-CT scans as part of the diagnostic protocol.
- 1.3 Breast cancer remains one of the most prevalent cancers in South Africa, with increasing demands for advanced diagnostic and staging tools. PET scans have demonstrated clinical value in specific patient populations, aiding in the assessment of disease extent, response to treatment, and detection of recurrence.
- 1.4 In light of emerging clinical evidence and identified patient needs, this circular endorses the interim inclusion of PET scans as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) for select breast cancer patients, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 15 of the Medical Schemes Act (131 of 1998).

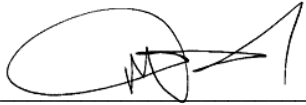
2. Regulatory Framework and Rationale

- 2.1 Regulation 15 provides a framework for developing evidence-based protocols and algorithms to ensure equitable access to healthcare services classified as PMBs. Given the evolving clinical landscape, this regulation allows medical schemes to develop and adopt evidence-based protocols for the inclusion of PET scans as a PMB where clinically indicated for breast cancer patients.
- 2.2 The inclusion of PET scans in selective cases aligns with the objectives of the PMB Review Process and ensures that members have access to essential diagnostic services necessary for optimal treatment decisions.

3. Implementation and Compliance

- 3.1 Medical schemes should align their benefit policies accordingly and communicate these changes to their beneficiaries and service providers.

Yours sincerely,



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