



CIRCULAR

Reference: PMB Definitions Guidelines
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Circular 18 of 2025: Development of PMB Guidelines: Low Birth Weight with Respiratory Difficulties – Call for Clinical Advisory Committee Experts

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) wishes to inform stakeholders of the commencement of the development of a Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) Definition Guideline for Low Birth Weight with Respiratory Difficulties, as part of the 2025/2026 PMB review cycle.
- 1.2 The CMS further invites nominations for participation in the Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC), established in terms of Section 9 of the Medical Schemes Act (131 of 1998), to provide expert input into the development of this and other PMB definitions.

2. Background

- 2.1 The CMS, as the statutory regulatory body for medical schemes, is committed to advancing equitable access to healthcare and ensuring that Prescribed Minimum Benefits remain responsive, evidence-based, and in line with clinical best practice.
- 2.2 The Benefit Definition Guidelines Project aims to clarify PMB entitlements and support all stakeholders in the consistent interpretation and application of PMB provisions under the Act.
- 2.3 The inclusion of Low Birth Weight infants with respiratory difficulties responds to stakeholder requests and clinical need, recognising the complexity and resource intensity of neonatal care for this vulnerable group.

3. Clinical Advisory Committee Establishment

- 3.1 To support the development of this PMB Definition Guideline, the CMS is establishing a Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) comprised of experts in relevant clinical, technical, and policy domains.
- 3.2 The CAC will be chaired by a suitably qualified clinical specialist, with demonstrated experience in neonatology, paediatrics, or perinatal care, and with expertise in guideline development and evidence-based practice.
- 3.3 Following the Chairperson's appointment, a full CAC will be constituted, drawing from the CMS Technical Expert Panel and stakeholder nominations. The after, the development of the guideline will commence.

4. Composition and Call for Nominations

4.1 The CMS invites nominations for:

- Chairpersons of the CAC for this topic.
- Clinical and technical experts to serve as CAC members.

4.2 Eligible individuals should have expertise in one or more of the following:

- Neonatal and perinatal medicine
- Paediatrics
- Clinical guideline development
- Health technology assessment (HTA)
- Public health, health economics, or health policy
- Medical scheme benefit design or managed care

4.3 The Chairperson will lead the development of the Scope document, which defines the clinical questions, patient population, and framework for evidence appraisal.

4.4 Nominations should include a comprehensive CV and a brief motivation and must be submitted via email to: pmbreview@medicalschemes.co.za

5. Important Information and Deadlines

The closing date for nominations (Chairperson and Committee Members):

Due date for nomination of Chairperson	Due date for submission of CVs
30 June 2025	30 June 2025

6. Contact

For further information or clarification, please contact the PMB Definitions Project Team at: pmbreview@medicalschemes.co.za.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Musa Gumede
Chief Executive and Registrar
Council for Medical Schemes



Dr Honour Mukhari (Deputy Chairperson)
For Dr Thandi Mabeba
Chairperson of Council
Council for Medical Schemes