



## CIRCULAR

Reference: Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) Definition Guidance for 2026/2027  
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### **Circular 14 of 2026: PMB Definition Guideline Development and Invitation for Expert Participation in the Clinical Advisory Committee**

The Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) hereby invites interested stakeholders to participate in the Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC), established by Section 9 of the Medical Schemes Act (131 of 1998). The purpose of this Committee is to assist the CMS in the development of Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMB) Guidance and recommendations for the Minister of Health to prescribe the scope and extent of minimum benefits for beneficiaries of medical schemes.

#### **Purpose**

The CMS would like to inform stakeholders of the commencement of the process to develop PMB definition guidelines for the 2026/2027 cycle.

#### **Background**

The CMS, as an agile and transformative regulator, promotes affordable and accessible healthcare cover towards universal health coverage. Through the Benefit Definition Guidelines Project, the CMS aims to clarify PMB entitlements and offer guidance to all stakeholders in interpreting PMB provisions in terms of the relevant legislation.

In alignment with best practices and health technology assessment methodologies, the CMS establishes the CAC to critically appraise clinical guidelines and contribute to the development of evidence-based recommendations that inform PMB Definition Guidelines.

In our efforts to improve the effectiveness of the PMB Definitions Guidelines Development process, the Council has prioritised the possible PMB Chronic Disease List and DTP Diagnostic and Treatment Pairs Anatomic Groups PMBs to be focused on for this year.

The PMB CDL Conditions nominated include any of the following:

- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Cardiac Failure
- Parkinson's Disease

The DTP Anatomic groups PMB Definitions will include any of the following:

#### **Female reproductive system**

- Cancer of the Cervix – treatable
- Cervical and breast cancer screening
- Cancer of the ovary – treatable
- Menopausal management; anomalies of ovaries; primary and secondary amenorrhoea; female sex hormones abnormalities NOS; including hirsutism

#### **Ear, nose, mouth, and throat**

- Acute otitis media
- Open wound of the eardrum
- Foreign body in the ear and nose

#### **Emergency**

- Traumatic amputation of limbs, hands, feet, and digits

#### **Maternal and Neonatal Conditions**

- Respiratory conditions of newborn
- Pregnancy

#### **Stroke (Cerebrovascular Disease)**

- Stroke (due to haemorrhage or ischaemia)

The Committee will be composed of experts in various fields, including but not limited to:

- Medical practitioners, including clinical medicine and specialist care.
- Allied healthcare professionals.
- Health technology assessment methodologists.
- Evidence-based medicine and guideline development specialists.
- Medical schemes and healthcare financing experts.
- Public health and epidemiology experts.
- Health economists.
- Health Policy experts.
- Civic society participants.

A chairperson will be appointed for each of the prioritised PMB Definition topics and will be responsible for developing the Scope for the respective PMB definition guideline, in consultation with CMS. The Chairperson will ideally be a clinical specialist in the specific disease area, employed in academia and will have extensive experience in guideline development.

After the appointment of the Chairperson for the respective PMB definition and scope development, a Clinical Advisory Committee (CAC) will be established. The CAC will consist of technical experts selected from the CMS Technical Expert Panel and relevant stakeholders with expertise in the specific PMB Definition Topics. These stakeholders will represent various interest groups within the medical schemes industry.

Healthcare professionals, professional society stakeholders, and the medical scheme industry are invited to nominate suitable candidates to be considered for CAC positions. Interested parties must email their CVs to [pmbreview@medicalschemes.co.za](mailto:pmbreview@medicalschemes.co.za).

Please note that the PMB Definition Guideline development will commence only once a chairperson has been successfully appointed to develop the Guideline Scope, followed by the appointment of a full CAC to execute its mandate.

Members of the CAC are selected through a transparent, competency-based process that applies predefined criteria, including relevant clinical expertise and evidence-based practice experience, followed by formal nomination, review, and approval by the Registrar.

All enquiries may be directed to [pmbreview@medicalschemes.co.za](mailto:pmbreview@medicalschemes.co.za).

The submission due date is **31 May 2026**.

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr Musa Gumede**  
**Chief Executive and Registrar**  
**Council for Medical Schemes**