



What if I don't want to follow the referral pathways or my preferred clinic or hospital is not registered with NHI?

Under NHI you will still have access to your preferred clinic or hospital. If you seek treatment in a facility that is not registered with the NHI or if you do not wish to adhere to the referral pathway, your expenditure will not be reimbursed. This may necessitate that you pay cash or out-of-pocket for the services rendered by that particular facility.

Will I have to pay more tax for NHI?

Initially, there will be no tax for the NHI. The government will pool the funds that already exist in the public sector to start the NHI. When the NHI is up and running, then Treasury may introduce a small tax to augment the money allocated through the public budget.



What is NHI?

NHI is about Ubuntu - we all take care of each other, as a nation, in times of need. NHI is the South African way of providing access to high quality health care for everyone.

What will happen between now and when the NHI starts?



Before it can become a law, the NHI Bill must be passed by Parliament. In the next five years government's efforts will be concentrated on preparing the NHI infrastructure that will administer the fund and provide services. At the same time government will give priority to attention to refurbishing clinics and hospitals, train and employ more staff, improve the quality of health care, implement systems to ensure that medicines do not run out of stock in our facilities, and ensure that maladministration and corruption is uprooted so that all facilities will be ready for NHI.



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How does it work?

The NHI will buy quality health care services on behalf of the people of South Africa. These services will be provided by health care professionals and providers in the public and private health care facilities and will integrate them into one health care system that serves the needs of all South Africans.

NHI will combine the many public and private health care funds into one fund that will pay for everyone when they need to access health care using the advantage of the size of the fund to reduce health care costs.



Will I get free health care now?

When you see a nurse or a GP they will attend to you and decide if you need a specialist. You will get the care you need at the level you need it. You will be able to make decisions on your health together with your health care workers and professionals who will guide you to follow the referral pathways.

When you are seen in an NHI facility, and if you follow the referral pathway, you will never have to pay any cash or medical aid contributions. The services will be free at the time you are attended to.

Who will NHI cover?

Every South African, permanent resident, refugee and prisoner will be able to register for NHI. All children born and living in South Africa will qualify for NHI. Everyone else will qualify for treatment for emergencies and diseases that can cause outbreaks. (note: those working for SANDF will still have a separate fund)



What about medical aids?

Medical aids will still exist, but will not be able to offer cover for the same services as NHI.

I have medical aid because I don't want to wait in queues or be seen in a dirty public hospital. Can NHI guarantee the same standard of care if I stop my medical aid?

Government will upgrade all facilities to ensure that there is no difference between a public and private facility- all NHI facilities have to be the same standard because they will have to follow the rules of the Office of Health Standards Compliance to be part of NHI. The objective is to ensure that the queues are reduced and facilities will be clean, providing safe health care services.



How can I be part of NHI?

You can register yourself and your family for NHI at your nearest GP or clinic