

4 December 2015

Ms Bianca Kriel ,
Coach: Client Services
Profmed
P O Box 1004
Houghton
Johannesburg
2041

Dear Ms Kriel,

RE: PROFMED: PSYCHOLOGY OUT-OF-SCOPE CLAIMS

Your letter addressed to Service Providers, indicating that “Counselling Psychologists will only be funded if they are not treating patients with a Prescribed Minim Benefit (PMB) diagnosis or a psychiatric condition registered with the Scheme” refers. The further point that a maximum of 4 sessions will be funded is also of concern.

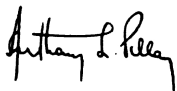
However, the Scope of Practice for Counselling Psychologists (HPCSA, 02 September 2011) states as follows:

- (a) Assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in clients dealing with life challenges, and developmental problems to optimise psychological wellbeing; assessing cognitive, personality, emotional and neuropsychological functions in relation to life challenges and developmental problems; assessing developmental processes (e.g. career choice), and adjustment;
- (b) identifying psychopathology, and its impact on developmental processes, and adjustment; identifying, and diagnosing disorders of adjustments; applying psychological interventions to clients with developmental challenges, and adjustment problems; performing therapeutic counselling interventions; referring clients to appropriate professionals for further assessment or intervention.

In interpreting the above it is clear that (i) a wide range of psychological problems are included and (ii) a 4 session maximum is unreasonable and can even be counterproductive.

May we request a meeting in order to clarify both of our interpretations of the gazetted scope of practice at your earliest convenience, as it is causing much difficulty for our members and their clients?

Sincerely



Professor Anthony Pillay
President: Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA)



Dr Ewald Crause
PsySSA Executive Member