



UPDATE ON MEDICAL AID CORRESPONDENCE...

Dear PsySSA Member

Last year also concluded with PsySSA reporting on activities undertaken with Discovery, Polmed and Profmed. This has continued in 2016 with the following having been achieved:

1. The representatives on the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA have agreed to a meeting with PsySSA. PsySSA is currently awaiting a date and time for the meeting. Once this is confirmed, PsySSA will approach all PsySSA divisions who have voiced an interest in meeting with the Board to request one representative to attend the meeting
2. PsySSA met with Discovery late last year and have another meeting scheduled for the first week of March. The December meeting was productive with Discovery being willing to listen and work towards resolutions with regards to its communication on in-hospital claims for clinical psychologists.
3. Polmed has advised that as per their legal advisers they cannot meet with PsySSA. PsySSA is in the process of drafting a second letter to Polmed in response to this pointing out why their decision disadvantages their members. PsySSA will communicate with other organisations who have objected strongly to Polmed's communication to become co-signatories on the letter.
4. PsySSA is still waiting for a response from Profmed but the PsySSA office has been following up on this weekly since December.
5. PsySSA is engaging GEMS regarding Registered Counsellors being paid from a block benefit for Allied Health Professionals.

6. PsySSA conducted a survey late last year with members to determine whether there were patterns of claims being rejected by other medical aids. 125 members responded. Other than Discovery, Polmed and CAMAF, there were no other consistent responses. There were other findings in the survey re: billing, coding and claims as well as the amount of cover in medical aids for mental health in relation to other cover. A summary of the survey was emailed to all members earlier this week.

We wish to assure members that PsySSA is committed to engaging and negotiating with health care funders to resolve this matter. As indicated in the previous communiqué, PsySSA will update divisions regularly on developments in this regard and will call on Divisional Executive members to assist in responding to the medical aids.

Regards

Prof Anthony Pillay