

Who will be covered by NHI?



The National Health Insurance (NHI)

What is the NHI and how will it change the system?

- The NHI is a Fund, paid by our taxes, from which the government will buy health care services for all of us who live in the country from health care providers in the public sector and private sector.
- This means when you feel unwell, you can go to your nearest GP or clinic of your choice that has a contract with NHI and not worry about the cost of care.

Who will be covered under the NHI Fund?

- The fund will purchase services on behalf of SA citizens, permanent residents, refugees, inmates and specific categories of foreign nationals.
- Asylum seekers and illegal foreigners will be covered for notifiable conditions and emergency medical services.
- All children will be covered for all benefits purchased by the fund regardless of nationality.
- Visiting foreign nationals will be covered by their mandatory travel insurance.

Will unemployed people be able to access health care services?

- Yes. The NHI Fund will purchase services on behalf of all South Africans. All users will be able to access health care services without paying anything at the point of care, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

How much will it cost to receive services at a clinic, GP or hospital?

- The NHI Fund will pay the clinic, GP or hospital. You will not pay anything when receiving care.
- This is to make sure that everyone is able to receive health care services when they are sick, at a facility close to them (as long as the facility has a contract with the NHI Fund).

How can I register and what do I need for registration?

- You will register with the NHI Fund when you go to a clinic, GP or hospital that has a contract with the NHI for the first time. You will not need to register again when you go to any other clinic, GP or hospital because the NHI system will make sure that your records are available at every contracted health care provider.
- There is no fee payable for registration. This will be a similar process that you currently do each time to you go to a clinic, GP or hospital.
- You will need your ID book, passport, or other identity document to register. Your fingerprints will be taken and put on the NHI Fund system. This will make it easy when you visit the clinic, GP or hospital again, or when your ID is lost. Fingerprints are a way to prevent fraud and identity theft but mostly to be absolutely sure that the medicines that you are given are for you and not someone else.
- Each time you attend a clinic, GP or hospital you will need to present your proof of identity. If you are unconscious, then the provider can still find your records using your fingerprints.

Will individuals be able to use facilities of their choice?

- Yes. The NHI aims to make health care more accessible to all South Africans. Individuals will be able to access NHI-contracted GPs, clinics or hospitals closest to them, whether in the public or private sectors.

How will South Africans who do not have IDs be helped?

- Biometric identification will be used in facilities under the NHI reform. This is to ensure that all users have a portable health record that can be accessed under all circumstances anywhere in the country.
- The department of Health has a collaboration with Department of Home Affairs to address birth and death records.
- This collaboration helped many undocumented South Africans to access COVID-19 vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

