

## Guide to transplant submission process 2021

### Who we are

The BMW Employees Medical Aid Society (referred to as 'BEMAS'), registration number 1526, is a not-for-profit organisation, registered with the Council for Medical Schemes.

Discovery Health (Pty) Ltd (referred to 'the administrator') is a separate company and an authorised financial services provider (registration number 1997/013480/07). We take care of the administration of your membership for BEMAS.

### How we pay costs related to a transplant

This document explains how we pay for pre-transplant investigations, the transplant procedure and post-transplant care approved as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB).

### Understanding how the transplant claims process works

For simplicity, and to streamline the process, we have identified four definite steps that must take place for a transplant, as illustrated below:



BEMAS will only pay for treatment that is included in the benefit definition without using your day-to-day benefits. The information below describes each step in the claims process.

The process to have the patient or recipient's accounts paid is different to the process for the donor accounts. We explain these two processes separately.

#### Patient / Recipient work-up

BEMAS will pay for the appropriate, approved work-up costs for the recipient and the donor.

#### Getting work-up accounts paid as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit

- To ensure claims are funded correctly as Prescribed Minimum Benefits, it is important that all healthcare providers submit claims with the approved ICD-10 codes.
- Claims may be submitted using electronic submission channels. Alternatively, paper claims may be submitted by email to [claims@discovery.co.za](mailto:claims@discovery.co.za) or by fax to 0860 329 252.
- Proof of payment must be submitted if these claims have been paid for upfront.

### **If we have paid approved accounts from the day-to-day benefits**

In this case, we will pay the amounts back into the day-to-day benefits retrospectively. If you paid the accounts upfront, we will pay the money back in to your bank account if proof of payment is submitted with the claim. If the service provider has not been paid yet and has a payment arrangement with us, we will pay the provider directly.

### **Donor work-up**

#### **Paying the accounts**

- Once a suitable or compatible donor is found, and where appropriate, the transplant coordinator will send us the donor's full name and ID number. We will pay for the tests that are necessary to be done before the surgery to harvest the donor's organ (including X-rays, ECG and blood tests) retrospectively once the transplant surgery has been done.
- BEMAS will only approve and pay for **one** donor work-up.
- The donor does not have to be a member of BEMAS. We pay these accounts as an exception process (outside the normal claims process).
- In the event that the donor later becomes unsuitable, a letter of motivation is required from the treating doctor for review by a clinical panel. We will notify the member of the outcome of the review.

#### **Getting the donor accounts to us so we can pay them correctly**

- Make sure the accounts are clearly marked as *"Donor account approved as ex gratia"*.
- Ensure that the donor's full name and ID number as well as the recipient's BEMAS membership number as it reflects on the account.
- Please fax the accounts to us on 011 539 2130 or email them to [EXGRATIA\\_APPROVED\\_CLAIMS@discovery.co.za](mailto:EXGRATIA_APPROVED_CLAIMS@discovery.co.za) for payment of the accounts.

### **The transplant**

#### **The hospitalisation costs for the transplant surgery will be paid from your Hospital Benefit.**

We will pay for the transplant procedure in-hospital from the Hospital Benefit. You can call us on **0860 002 107** for an authorisation number and we will explain the details of payment at the same time.

### **Post-transplant management**

#### **Certain treatment needed after the transplant surgery may also qualify for payment as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit**

After the transplant surgery, treatment is required as part of ongoing management of the condition. The condition being treated may be a Prescribed Minimum Benefit (PMB) and the treatment may be part of the basket of care for that PMB. This may include tests or investigations, chronic medicine and consultations.

## **Making sure that the post-surgery treatment is covered as a Prescribed Minimum Benefit**

### *Chronic medicine*

Funding for chronic medicine is not automatic. You will need to apply for funding for chronic medicine and we will approve the request subject to certain criteria that need to be met. A *Chronic Illness Benefit application form* must be completed and sent back to us by fax on 011 539 7000 or by email at [CIB\\_APP\\_FORMS@discovery.co.za](mailto:CIB_APP_FORMS@discovery.co.za).

If you are already registered on the Chronic Illness Benefit for this condition, we need a copy of the new prescription for the medicine required.

### *Consultations, tests or investigations*

Notify us that the transplant surgery has taken place by emailing [PMB\\_APP\\_FORMS@discovery.co.za](mailto:PMB_APP_FORMS@discovery.co.za) or by fax to 011 539 2780. We will then activate the post-transplant benefit.

## **Where to get application forms**

You can access and print the forms from our website at [www.bemas.co.za](http://www.bemas.co.za) or call us on 0860 002 107 to send the forms to you.

If we do not approve funding, you may appeal the funding decision by submitting additional clinical information for treatment that falls outside of the benefit definition.

## **Contact us**

You can call us on 0860 002 107, or visit the website on [www.bemas.co.za](http://www.bemas.co.za) for more information.

## **Complaints process**

You may lodge a complaint or query with BMW Employee Medical Aid Society directly on 0860 002 107 or address a complaint in writing directly to the Principal Officer. Should your complaint remain unresolved, you may lodge a formal dispute by following BMW Employees Medical Aid Society's internal disputes process.

Members, who wish to approach the Council for Medical Schemes for assistance, may do so in writing to: Council for Medical Schemes Complaints Unit, Block A, Eco Glades 2 Office Park, 420 Witch-Hazel Avenue, Eco Park, Centurion, 0157 or email [complaints@medicalschemes.co.za](mailto:complaints@medicalschemes.co.za). Customer Care Centre: 0861 123 267/website [www.medicalschemes.co.za](http://www.medicalschemes.co.za)