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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**TO:
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
PROGRAMME MANAGERS
PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME CIRCULAR 2 OF 2023

CHANGES TO THE COVID-19 IMMUNISATION COST RECOVERY AND REIMBURSEMENT PROCESSES

1. During the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, private providers were required to purchase vaccines and claim the costs of the vaccine and the vaccine administration fee from medical schemes (for insured clients) and from the National Department of Health (for uninsured clients).
2. From the 1st of April 2023, COVID-19 vaccines will be provided at zero value to private service providers. The Supply and Distribution Agreements will be concluded, and the department will no longer reimburse private providers for vaccine or vaccine administration costs associated with the vaccination of uninsured persons after the 31st March 2023.
3. Vaccines will only be distributed to public sector health facilities. The private sector will access the vaccine from the provincial departments of health through designated health facilities, leveraging existing or new Service Level Agreements (SLA) between the provincial department of health and the private service providers. The province will provide the vaccine free of charge to the private provider, as per the provincial SLA.
4. COVID-19 vaccines and administration costs will remain a prescribed minimum benefit for insured patients, with the price of the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® and Comirnaty® (Pfizer) vaccines being zero-rated. This will allow private providers to continue to claim for the vaccine administration cost. From the 1st April 2023, the vaccine administration cost will be fixed at R100 (inclusive of VAT) per dose in both the public and private sectors.

5. As a result of these changes:
- 5.1. Uninsured clients accessing vaccination in the public sector will be vaccinated free of charge.
 - 5.2. Insured clients vaccinated in the private sector will receive the service free of charge as the vaccine will be provided free of charge, and the medical scheme will reimburse the vaccine administration fee.
 - 5.3. Insured clients accessing the service in the public sector will receive the service free of charge. Where capacity exists, the administration fee can be claimed from the patient's medical scheme.
 - 5.4. Uninsured clients accessing vaccination in the private sector will be required to pay the vaccine administration cost of R100 (R86,95 plus 15% VAT). The provincial or national department of health will not reimburse private providers for administering the vaccine.
 - 5.5. Active vaccination sites in the private sector will receive a credit against their account for unused COVID-19 vaccine doses remaining at the end of March 2023. The usable vaccine stock on hand will be recorded on the 13th February 2023 using the data recorded on the Stock Visibility System (SVS), and all transactions thereafter will be considered to determine the credit where applicable.
 - 5.6. The cash collection by distributors will conclude once all the claims for vaccinations up to the 31st March 2023 have been processed. This will further allow the distributors to complete the associated cash collection activities before the end of their contracts on the 30th June 2023.

Kind regards



DR SSS BUTHELEZI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH

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