



Dear Member

**RE: SCHEME UPDATE FOR 2009**

In keeping with BEPMEDS philosophy of involving our members in benefit design and the service that we provide, the Scheme held its AGM and 2009 benefit brainstorming session on 30 July 2008. This session was well attended by employer groups and intermediaries alike and gave rise to healthy debate and suggestions around the proposed benefit design. Understandably, not all the suggestions could be adopted at this stage and, after a comprehensive budget process, the Trustees have decided on some key changes as listed below.

**Rates**

1. Effective premium increases on the 3 options have been set as follows:
  - a) Pro Elite – 10.95%
  - b) Pro Core – 18.5%
  - c) Pro Basic – 8.2%

The above examples are based on family size of one principal member, one adult dependant and one child dependant and take into account the legislative requirement that each option be self-financing. The Scheme continues to offer significant value for money and competitive benefits.

**Benefits**

**1. Pro Elite**

- a) Introduction of Health Saver for members wanting to use more than the existing savings allocation – please speak to your assigned intermediary for more information on this. Health Saver, a financial product outside the Scheme, can be used to supplement the savings element (23%) within your monthly contributions.
- b) Increase in Psychiatric hospitalisation limit from R20 000 to R21 900
- c) Chronic medicine limit increase from R20 000 to R21 900 per member family
- d) Increase in internal prosthesis limit from R30 000 to R32 850
- e) Increase in combined hearing aid and external prosthesis limit from R16 000 to R17 520
- f) Increase in medical appliance limit from R5 000 to R5 475
- g) Increase in Oncology benefit from R400 000 to R438 000
- h) Increase in specialised dentistry limit from R10 000 to R10 950 for a single member and from R18 000 to R19 710 for the family benefit
- i) Increase in acute medicine limits as follows:
  - M + 0 = R9 850
  - M + 1 = R12 000
  - M + 2 = R14 750
  - M + 3 = R17 500
- i) Increase in Optical benefit from R3 000 for single member to R3 285 and increase in family limit of R9 000 to R9 855 (calculated over a two year cycle)
- j) Infertility limit increased from R3 000 to R3 285
- k) Immunisations (as stated on the Department of Health schedule) paid from Core benefit from 2009. This is a new benefit that is commonly found on other high end options in the market. Benefit covers vaccine only and not the cost of administering the same which can be claimed from savings.

- l) Increase in threshold levels:
  - Member – R4 728 to R5 292
  - Adult – R4 068 to R4 560
  - Child – R1 716 to R1 692 (child premium on Elite has been realigned)

## **2. Pro Core**

- a) Increase in Psychiatric hospitalisation limit from R10 000 to R10 950
- b) Increase in combined annual limit for organ transplant and kidney dialysis from R60 000 to R65 700
- c) Increase in internal prosthesis limit from R18 000 to R19 710
- d) Increase in external prosthesis and hearing aid (combined limit) from R12 000 to R13 140
- e) Increase in medical appliance benefit from R1 300 to R1 423 per beneficiary per annum
- f) Increase in home nursing/step down facility from R7 500 to R8 212
- g) Increase in Oncology limit from R400 000 to R438 000
- h) Change in BST rate payable in hospital from 300% to 200%. We have looked at similarly-priced products in the market and Pro Core still competes favourably with these options which at best only offer 150% of the NHRPL rate as an in-hospital top up.

## **3. Pro Basic**

- a) Introduction of Health Saver on a voluntary basis as a financial product outside the Scheme to supplement out of hospital expenses - please speak to your assigned intermediary for more information on this.

The Trustees believe that these enhancements will continue to assist our members with their most important asset, being their health. The Scheme made other significant enhancements such as the capping of child rates to a maximum of three children on the Pro Core and Pro Elite options during the course of 2008. The introduction of Health Saver across the Pro Elite and Pro Basic options also gives the Scheme a competitive edge in the market.

Since the Built Environment industry has experienced spiralling growth in the past few years, there is extreme pressure on our members to deliver to their clients. It is apparent that many of our members do not get a chance to live a balanced life and increased incidences of high blood pressure and other stress related illnesses are on the increase. To this end, members are reminded of the Multiply lifestyle benefit that is available to you. The focus on many companies nowadays is wellness and with the Multiply Lifestyle program, there are rewards for healthy living that may be linked to the Health Saver or other Momentum financial products. Join the gym or apply for a pedometer through the program to ensure that your healthy activities earn you points. Leisure benefits of the Multiply program include discounts on movie tickets, accommodation and items from participating retail stores. To take advantage of this benefit, visit the Multiply website on [www.multiply.co.za](http://www.multiply.co.za) or phone 0861 88 66 00 and kick start your way to a healthy lifestyle.

The new SMS facility which kicks off from 2009 will give members the option of receiving all membership updates to their contract via SMS. Should members' savings balances on the Pro Elite decrease below a set amount, they would also be notified via SMS. We are anticipating these changes to help our members in managing their benefits more appropriately and urge you to update the Scheme's administrator with your latest cell phone details. You may also update your personal details on the Scheme's website ([www.bepmeds.co.za](http://www.bepmeds.co.za)). Attached, please find a web registration form for completion and return if you are not already registered.

Should you also wish to change from your existing option to another in 2009, please ensure that you complete an Option Change form that is available either from your employer group or broker. If your premium payments are coordinated through your employer, please remember to confirm your option change with your payroll department to ensure that the correct deduction is made from your salary.

Furthermore, the Trustees have opened up the Scheme to two more associations which the Trustees feel would contribute to Scheme growth. We are proud to welcome the Association of Construction Project Managers (ACPM) and the Institute of Landscape Architects (ILA) aboard. If you are travelling out of the Republic of South Africa (even cross border trips by road/rail), you are reminded once again to notify the Scheme's international travel cover agents, TIC, so that your cover may be activated. Please phone +27 11 254 1387.

Finally, the Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the past year and wish you a safe and healthy 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Eakduth', written over a horizontal line.

Eugene Eakduth  
Fund Manager  
BEPMEDS Medical Scheme

**\*\* NB - The benefits and rates of BEPMEDS has been made available subject to the registration of the Scheme's rules by the Council for Medical Schemes. Should there be any amendments post this communication, you will be informed accordingly.**