



*competition***commission**
south africa

Call for Submissions

1 August 2014

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

1 AUGUST 2014

The Panel for the Market Inquiry into the Private Healthcare Sector (“the Panel”) has today published its Statement of Issues in order to give focus to the investigation and assist participants in addressing the issues identified in the Terms of Reference. These documents are available on the Inquiry’s website: www.healthinquiry.net.

The Panel now invites all those who wish to participate in this Inquiry to make submissions on the issues identified in the Statement of Issues, read with the Terms of Reference. The closing date for submissions is 31 October 2014.

Participants are requested to make their full submissions at the outset. It should not be assumed that those who withhold information and argument at the outset will be afforded an opportunity to provide it later, as and when they choose.

Submissions should be as detailed as possible and any views or opinions expressed should be substantiated as far as possible. It would be most helpful to the Panel to receive submissions that provide verifiable facts to support specific arguments.

The issues identified in the Statement of Issues include, but are not limited to:

- Factors driving costs, prices, and expenditure in private healthcare;
- Market power and distortions of competition at various levels of the sector;
- Barriers to entry and expansion by firms at various levels of the sector;
- Factors limiting access by consumers to private healthcare, including affordability;
- Imperfect information as it affects consumers as well as firms in the sector;
- The impact of the regulatory framework (including various statutes, regulations and rules) on competition in private healthcare;
- The specific impact of interventions previously made by the competition authorities in regard to the healthcare sector; and
- The interaction between the public and private healthcare sectors.

Participants are encouraged to include in their submissions reference to comparative international experience.

All submissions must be accompanied by a completed form “HI1”. For further details, see the Commission’s Guidelines for Participation published today. Those wishing to make submissions of a technical nature should also refer to the Guideline for Submissions of Technical Data and Analysis.

When making your submission, please include the following details insofar as they apply to you:

1. WHO ARE YOU?

- 1.1. Your role in the healthcare sector (e.g. medical scheme member, consumer of private healthcare, consumer rights organisation, practitioner, financier, owner of facilities etc.), and a brief description of all your activities in the sector.
- 1.2. If you are representing a firm, a detailed description of your firm including, but not limited to, the corporate structure and organogram showing the relationship between the relevant entities; any holding company, joint ventures, subsidiaries, associated firms, and shareholding in other companies (if any), as well as details of the largest shareholders in the entities.
- 1.3. The geographical area(s) where you and/or your operations are located.
- 1.4. The geographical area(s) where your products and services are purchased and/or consumed.
- 1.5. A narrative of your experience, including your observations of the development and key changes in that part of the sector with which you are familiar.
- 1.6. Details of any and all industry associations/bodies/boards that you or your firm belong to within the private healthcare sector.

2. YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

2.1. You are invited to use the table below, or one substantially similar, to indicate relationships you have with various stakeholders in the healthcare sector, the nature of those relationship, as well as the names of the firms that you deal with. So, for example; if you are a medical scheme you would indicate which of the stakeholders in Column A you interact act with and specify the nature of that interaction in Column B, and you would list the names of the firms/persons you interact with in Column C.

For Example for Medical Scheme X:

<i>A. Medical Administrators</i>	<i>B. The administrator negotiates tariffs and fees on my behalf</i>	<i>C. Mr J. Soap (for Administrator Y) (t) 012 000 0000</i>
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A. Stakeholder	B. Nature of relationship (customer / supplier)	C. Name of firm(s) dealt with, where applicable
Medical Schemes		
Medical Scheme Administrators		
Managed Care Companies		
Health Insurers		
Brokers		
Facilities (e.g. hospitals)		
Medical Suppliers		

A. Stakeholder	B. Nature of relationship (customer / supplier)	C. Name of firm(s) dealt with, where applicable
Primary care practitioners (General Practitioner / Dentist)		
Medical Specialists		
Allied Professionals (specify)		
Members of the public		
Any category not mentioned above (specify)		

Please ensure that your submission reaches the Inquiry by no later than 31 October 2014.