



11 December 2012

Dear Doctor

Discovery Health Rate increases for anaesthesiologists in 2013

Since the introduction of Discovery Health's direct payment arrangements in 2007, these arrangements have enjoyed ongoing strong participation by specialists across all disciplines and all regions of the country. **Currently, circa 94% of all payments to anaesthesiologists by Discovery Health are made in terms of one of these custom payment arrangements (DPAs).**

The payment arrangements have proved to be of significant financial value to specialists in addition to providing, easier administration and alleviation of bad debt.

For 2013, we will be increasing the Discovery Health Rate for pre-anaesthetic consultation codes by **6.0%** and all other rates by **5.5%**. All DPA multipliers continue to apply to these increases.

Place of service indicators for maxillo-facial, oral and dental anaesthetic claims

In January 2011 Discovery Health enhanced the benefit for maxillo-facial, oral and dental anaesthetic claims to pay from the Hospital Benefit rather than the day-to-day benefits. The DPA rules were adjusted to align with the place of service for these procedures.

Discovery Health would like to ensure the ongoing accuracy of payment of these claims while continuing to limit the administrative burden on your practice. To achieve this and to avoid having to preauthorize these benefits, please note that from the 1 January 2013, we will require that that claims include a place of service indicator for anaesthetics administered for these procedures. Please be aware that if the place of service is not indicated, we will assume that the anaesthetic was performed in an out-of-hospital setting, and will pay the claim from the member's available day-to-day benefits at the out-of-hospital DPA rate.

Place of service code indicators:

21	Inpatient Hospital
24	Day Clinical/Hospital
11	Consulting room

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Discovery Health (Pty) Ltd. registration number: 1997/013480/07
An authorised financial services provider

The Discovery Health Rate and Direct Payment Arrangements rates for 2013

Discovery Health Rate (DH Rate)		
	Specialist DH Rate 2013	Description
Anaesthetic RCF	R74.02	Anaesthetic Rand Conversion Factor
Consultation codes	Rate per code	Rate per code
Clinical Unit – Procedures	R9.801	Clinical procedures Rand Conversion Factor
Pre-operative consultations	R268.70	Pre-operative assessment – codes 0151, 0152, 0153
*Classic Direct Rate – 204% and 217% for clinical procedures		
	Specialist DH Rate 2013	Description
Anaesthetic RCF	R151.00	Anaesthetic Rand Conversion Factor
Consultation codes	Rate per code	Rate per code
Clinical Unit – Procedures	R21.268	Clinical procedures Rand Conversion Factor
Pre-operative consultations	R548.10	Pre-operative assessment – codes 0151, 0152, 0153
Premier Rate B		
	Specialist DH Rate 2013	Description
Anaesthetic RCF	R106.58	Anaesthetic Rand Conversion Factor
Consultation codes	Rate per code	Rate per code
Clinical Unit – Procedures	R14.407	Clinical procedures Rand Conversion Factor
Pre-operative consultations	R386.90	Pre-operative assessment – codes 0151, 0152, 0153
Executive Plan		
	Specialist DH Rate 2013	Description
Anaesthetic RCF	R222.06	Anaesthetic Rand Conversion Factor
Consultation codes	Rate per code	Rate per code
Clinical Unit – Procedures	R 29.403	Clinical procedures Rand Conversion Factor
Pre-operative consultations	R806.10	Pre-operative assessment – code 0151, 0152, 0153

Scheme participation in Specialist direct payment arrangements

As previously communicated, there are a number of closed schemes administered by Discovery Health that participate in Discovery Health's direct payment arrangements. The details of scheme participation in the DPAs for 2013 are provided in the attachment.

How to contact us

If you are interested in participating in any of our direct payment arrangements, please email us at provider_administration@discovery.co.za. We would be happy to provide you with further information or guidance on which direct payment arrangement might suit your practice best.

We will make the details of all the 2013 Discovery Health Rates available to you

We will publish the detailed rates on www.discovery.co.za from mid-December 2012.

Thank you for engaging positively with us and we look forward to working with you in 2013, to the benefit of your patients – our members – and the South African healthcare system as a whole. Please feel free to email me at healthpartners@discovery.co.za if you have any questions about the payment arrangements.

Kind regards



Darren Sweidan
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Discovery Health