

01 September 2024

Dear Healthcare Professional

Changes to the way we pay for cancer medicine where a generic alternative exists

We are changing the way we pay for chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and supportive oncology medicine where a generic or substitutable alternative exists.

Currently, we pay approved oncology medicine up to a maximum of the Discovery Health Rate (DHR). All the cancer medicine add up to the patient's oncology cover amount based on their chosen plan (except for patients on KeyCare plans).

For KeyCare plans, we pay approved oncology medicine up to a maximum of the Discovery Health Rate (DHR) or up to the reference price for supportive medicine, whichever may apply.

Changes to the cover for oncology medicine

We are changing the amount we pay for oncology medicine after extensive engagement with the oncology pharmacy that has been our designated service provider over the years. This change applies to medicine that does not need a new prescription.

Change: From 1 January 2025, we're introducing a reference price for chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and supportive oncology medicine on all our plans. This will be for all medicine that have a generic or substitutable alternative. This change will ensure that patients maximise their oncology benefits while still continuing to take the same treatment.

What this means: From 1 January 2025, pharmacies and dispensing practices must dispense the best-priced generically substitute medicine.

We will pay approved oncology medicine as follows:

- For patients on all plans (except KeyCare plans), we will pay approved oncology medicine up to the maximum of the Discovery Health Rate (DHR) or the reference price (whichever applies). The medicine will add up to the patient's oncology cover amount.

- For patients on KeyCare plans, we will pay approved oncology medicine up to the maximum of the Discovery Health Rate (DHR) or reference price (whichever applies).

The reference price is the maximum price we set and will pay for a group of generic or substitutable medicine. To avoid additional co-payments, the cost of your patient's medicine must be the same as or less than the reference price for the same group of generic or substitutable medicine.

We're letting your patients know about this change

We will communicate these changes to your patients who will be affected. This is why we wanted to make that you are aware of change. We are sure that your patients may want to discuss their options with you.

The oncology pharmacy networks will remain in place for 2025.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like any additional information about payment for oncology medicine, please contact us on healthpartners@discovery.co.za.

Regards



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