

The Doctor's Post



Let's work on connecting the dots, not reinventing the wheel.

There has been much conversation, speculation and understandably, frustration around the passing of the NHI Bill and its potential consequences for existing systems and future generations. After all, the South African private healthcare sector counts among the best in the world – the high level of care provided by dedicated healthcare professionals such as yourselves is testament to this.

And yet, our country's current private healthcare funding industry is small, limited and stagnating fast, with just 8.9 million South Africans covered by medical schemes – a number that has not changed in ten years and which represents just a portion of employed individuals here.

At the same time, there are approximately 5.5 million employed but medically uninsured South Africans, not to mention the rest of the population, who are all in need of better healthcare access. Naturally, new ways of conducting business must be sought to better serve our industry and the majority of South Africans who have little choice apart from awaiting the NHI roll-out.

Within the National HealthCare Group, we have long maintained that one of the biggest challenges the healthcare industry faces is the successful, strategic management of scarce resources, and we believe that the private sector has an invaluable role to play in alleviating what is a troubling situation. It is for this reason that we have chosen to do things differently from the outset, and we believe it is part of the reason why you, our valued network providers, chose to align yourselves with us.

Step by step, we are proving that healthcare and formal business sectors can achieve more together and that practical solutions need to be shared in the interests of all South Africans. This has seen companies that are equally committed to healthcare for all reach out to us to offer our products to their sphere of influence. In the process companies like TymeBank, Standard Bank, Alexander Forbes, Old Mutual and others have partnered with us to become the efficient front-runners for NHI.

These highly effective partnerships are connecting many more hardworking South Africans and their families with affordable, quality healthcare provided with a human touch. In short, we are gaining traction and proving the efficacy of a new model – this is happening right now.

You see, at National HealthCare Group, our approach has been to connect the dots rather than trying to reinvent the wheel and we have to ask the question: How realistic is a new, hypothetical system, the cogs of which are so enormous they will take decades to put in place before they can even start turning? As we all know, at this point there are many more



questions than answers but we are choosing to stay focused, to forge ahead with our proven funding mechanisms, our digitally enabled systems and with you, one of the largest – and finest – provider networks at our side. For now, we believe that this is as firm a foundation as any, and we will continue to take a collaborative approach in building on what we have got.

Reminder: The Doctor's Post can also be accessed via the dedicated **National HealthCare Group Doctors' Newshub**, which is easily accessible via WhatsApp. This is a closed, 'broadcast only' group where only the administrators can post news updates. Please join the NewsHub by scanning the QR code.



You can also access the **Doctor's Post via the National HealthCare Group website** by following this link <https://bit.ly/3Xg2VFe>.

Best wishes

Dr Reinder Nauta and Patrick Lubbe