



**DIRECTOR GENERAL
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRETORIA**

Private Bag X828, PRETORIA, 0001, Dr AB Xuma Building, 1112 Voortrekker Rd, Pretoria Townlands 351-JR, Pretoria, 0187, Tel (012) 395 8000

CAPE TOWN

P.O. Box 3875, CAPE TOWN, 8000, 103 Parliament Towers, Room 615, Plein Street, CAPE TOWN, 8000 Tel (021) 461 2040 Fax (021) 461 6864

Dear Private Healthcare Provider

COVID-19 VACCINE REIMBURSEMENT CIRCULAR 3 OF 2021

PROPOSED REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS FOR PROVISION OF A BOOSTER DOSE OF JANSSEN® (J&J) VACCINE TO SISONKE 2 PARTICIPANTS

Health Care workers who received a single J&J vaccination as part of the Sisonke programme will be offered a booster dose of Janssen® (J&J) vaccine in an **implementation** study/ programme now called Sisonke 2. The booster doses will be administered at selected public and private vaccination sites, and the South African Medical Research Council will monitor the outcomes. Sisonke 2 programme will be conducted as a Phase 3b **implementation** study, and the vaccines have been donated. The outcomes that will be studied by the South African Medical Research Council are to assess the effectiveness of a J&J booster dose. There will be no charge for the donated vaccines.

Only healthcare workers vaccinated as part of the Sisonke 1 will be eligible to receive the booster dose. Healthcare workers who have received unauthorised booster doses of Cominarty® (Pfizer-BionTech) vaccine after Janssen® vaccine are being strongly discouraged from accepting an additional booster Janssen® vaccine as there are no safety data for such a schedule.

The vaccines will be administered in line with current vaccine roll-out guidelines and practices. This includes ensuring that all doses are accurately recorded on the EVDS.

The programme is anticipated to start on the 10th November 2021 with the list of accredited sites published at the commencement of the programme.

Given the vaccines have been donated, the cost to medical schemes will only be the vaccine administration fee of R80,50 (R70 plus VAT). The vaccination site will invoice medical schemes for this fee where the participating healthcare workers have medical scheme cover. There will be no charge for the vaccine itself.

The Sisonke 2 vaccination code on EVDS will be uniquely identified and will start with the prefix “**BD-SD**”. This will enable easy identification of those vaccinations through EVDS.

PROPOSED REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS FOR PROVISION OF A BOOSTER DOSE OF JANSSEN® (J&H) VACCINE TO SISONKE 2 PARTICIPANTS

Reimbursement:

- a) Vaccination sites will invoice medical schemes for the vaccine administration fee of R80,50 (incl. VAT) where the participating healthcare workers have medical scheme cover.
- b) Vaccination sites are not permitted to claim for reimbursement for vaccine administered to Sisonke 2 beneficiaries as the vaccine has been donated by Janssen® (J&J).
- c) Beneficiaries of medical schemes are obliged to provide their medical scheme details.
- d) The submission of claims to medical schemes is as per the normal processes of claiming from medical schemes. There is no need for unique identification codes. This applies to medical scheme beneficiaries regardless of whether they attend a private or a public site.
- e) Sisonke 2 beneficiaries who do not have medical aid cover may also attend either public or private sites. For these beneficiaries the administration fee will be claimed via the current Medikredit system for uninsured persons and a credit note will be passed for the administration fee. Only the administration fee is required on the claim line.

Verification of claims

To ensure the validity of claims for reimbursement submitted to medical schemes, particularly in relation to providers inadvertently claiming for the vaccine as well as the vaccine administration fee, the following control and reconciliation mechanisms will be in place:

- a) The site name and practice number of participating vaccination sites will be made available to all medical schemes. This allows medical schemes to verify that a claim line item for an administration fee only, is originating from a participating site.
- b) Should medical schemes require verification of individual claims, Sisonke will allow for the ID numbers of the claims submitted to medical schemes to be checked against the Sisonke 2 database to confirm vaccination.

Enquiries about the reimbursement process for the Sisonke 2 must be submitted to cov19enquiries@health.gov.za.



DR N CRISP
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH
Date: 16th November 2021