



benefits for educational and industrial psychology services

31 October 2016

Dear Service Provider

Various factors are responsible for the current increased cost in healthcare delivery, as has been widely reported. To address these factors, it is important that Medihelp should apply its Rules strictly when deciding on the benefits to be granted for medical and supplementary services.

In the case of psychology services, the Regulations published under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974 define the scope of the profession of psychology and differentiate between inter alia the practice of clinical, industrial and educational psychologists. This distinction is important, as it dictates how Medihelp should grant benefits for the services rendered by the respective practitioners.

Medihelp regards clinical psychology to be a supplementary healthcare service which qualifies for benefits on some of our benefit options that have been structured and priced to accommodate such services. In the case of industrial and educational psychology, however, the description of the services in the Regulations determines that benefits cannot be granted in terms of the Rules of Medihelp:

- Industrial psychology involves services that deal with organisational behaviour and functioning in the workplace and not services that are related to medical conditions. Paragraph 1.1 of Schedule C of the Medihelp Rules stipulates that no benefits are granted for services which are not aimed at the generally accepted medical treatment of an actual or a suspected **medical** condition or handicap which is harmful or threatening to necessary bodily functions.

- Educational psychology involves services that deal with learning and development, and paragraph 1.3 of Schedule C specifically excludes aptitude, intelligence/IQ and similar tests as well as the treatment of learning problems from benefits.

Medihelp will therefore no longer consider services rendered by industrial and educational psychologists for benefits on any of its benefit options. This will be effective from **1 November 2016**. Kindly inform your Medihelp patients that they will in future be liable for the payment of services rendered by you.

Our decision does not imply that we disregard the value of your services or the important role you play in the welfare of our members. We are however bound to apply our Rules consistently as required by the Council for Medical Schemes and we trust that you appreciate our position in this regard.

Kind regards

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