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Medical Aid Benefit Offering Review
Medical aid with more choice:
Next steps



Dear Nedbank Pensioner

Medical aid with more choice: next steps

This is our next communication to you following the June communication where we shared the results of the survey we ran to understand medical scheme benefit preferences of our members.

In the June communication we also informed you that after much careful consideration and consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Nedgroup Medical Aid Scheme (NMAS), as well as external advisors, we will be implementing compulsory membership with choice for our permanent staff members, aiming for an effective date of 01 January 2022. As a pensioner, this arrangement will similarly give you choice of one of three top open schemes whilst at the same time protecting your right to the current PRMA subsidy benefit, where eligible, that you currently enjoy.

The first major step to implement this is for NMAS to consider an amalgamation with one of the open medical schemes. In terms of the Medical Schemes Act, a medical scheme may only amalgamate with one other scheme and this will result in all the reserves of NMAS moving to the amalgamation partner.

On 19 July 2021 NMAS announced its intention to amalgamate with **Bonitas Medical Fund**, subject to a NMAS member voting process. You are receiving this communication to inform you that you will shortly be invited to participate in the voting process.

Based on the extensive benchmarking work done by Alexander Forbes and independently supported by the NMAS Board of Trustees, the following two open medical schemes will be added to the medical schemes that you can select from:

- **Bestmed Medical Scheme**
- **Discovery Health Medical Scheme**

This means that you will have a choice of any of the three mentioned medical schemes – **Bestmed, Bonitas and Discovery Health Medical Scheme** - effective 1 January 2022 with no waiting periods being imposed on new or existing conditions. There will also be no change to your current post-retirement medical aid subsidy.

You will have sufficient opportunity and time to make a medical scheme and benefit plan selection before 1 January 2022. We have appointed **Alexander Forbes Health** as our healthcare advisors who will be ready to help you understand the options available to you. This process of engagement and option selection is planned to take place during October and November.

At this stage, all you need to do is look out for the communication from NMAS, from 19 July, where you will be asked to vote in favour or not in favour of the amalgamation between Bonitas Medical Fund and Nedgroup Medical Aid Scheme (NMAS). Voting will close on 10 August 2021.

In the meanwhile, if you have any questions in this regard please call the Alexander Forbes call centre on 011 269 2690 or e-mail nedbank@forbes.com.

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