

Advanced Illness Benefit

Who we are

LA Health Medical Scheme (referred to as 'the Scheme'), registration number 1145, is a not for profit organisation, registered with the Council for Medical Schemes.

Discovery Health (Pty) Ltd (referred to as 'the administrator') is a separate company and an authorised financial services provider (registration number 1997/013480/07). We take care of the administration of your membership for the Scheme.

Overview

The Advanced Illness Benefit (AIB) provides access to comprehensive palliative care to beneficiaries who have an advanced stage illness. The care is provided by a multidisciplinary team, in the comfort of your own home or in a hospice facility.

About some of the terms we use in this document

There may be some terms we refer to in the document that you may not be familiar with. Here are the meanings of these terms.

TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
Day-to-day benefits	These are the available funds allocated to the Medical Savings Account, Extended Day-to-Day Benefit or Above Threshold Benefit, where applicable. Depending on the benefit option you chose, you may have cover for a defined set of day-to-day benefits.
LA Health Rate	This is the rate we pay for healthcare services from hospitals, pharmacies, healthcare professionals and other providers of relevant health services.
ICD-10 code	A clinical code that describes diseases and signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases, as classified by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Your doctor must register you for cover on the Advanced Illness Benefit

To register, your doctor needs to complete the Advanced Illness Benefit and Compassionate Care Benefit application form and email it to AIB@lahealthms.co.za. The application form is available on www.lahealth.co.za

Access to the Advanced Illness Benefit is voluntary and is subject to clinical entry criteria

This benefit pays for palliative care for beneficiaries in advanced stages of their illness, where curative treatment has ceased and there is a palliative care plan to address symptoms related to the illness. If your application is approved, you will have access to the benefits offered by the Advanced Illness Benefit.

The Advanced Illness Benefit at a glance

Members on the Advanced Illness Benefit have access to the following:

- **Support from a dedicated care coordinator**
A dedicated care coordinator, who is a registered nurse, will contact you (or your family member) once we have registered you on the Advanced Illness Benefit. The care coordinator will support you and your family, and will work closely with your GP and/or specialist to ensure you receive the best of care at all times.
- **Personalised support and counselling**
Once registered on the Advanced Illness Benefit, you and your family will have access to counselling services for support during this difficult time.
- **Comprehensive home-based care**
If you are registered on the Advanced Illness Benefit, you have access to personalised home-based care services such as:
 - medical care by palliative care trained doctors,
 - rental of home oxygen concentrator,
 - pain management and symptom control,
 - psychosocial support from social workers, counsellors or psychologists trained in palliation, and
 - limited bereavement counselling for the family

The following services are subject to additional authorisation and managed care entry criteria may apply:

- home based visits from a nurse specialising in palliative care,
 - limited home nursing care, which excludes frail care,
 - hiring/rental of specific equipment,
 - Hospice care at home and/or in-patient units, where available,
 - limited radiology and pathology.
- **Access to specialised telephonic support**
You can contact 011 529 6797 during working hours for assistance with Advanced Illness Benefit related authorisations, oxygen or benefit and claims related enquiries.

Your cover on the Advanced Illness Benefit

The Advanced Illness Benefit pays for services provided by a multidisciplinary team

LA Health Medical Scheme will pay for healthcare services provided by any of the healthcare professionals represented in the palliative multidisciplinary team, according to a specific basket of care and the agreed individual care plan. These costs will not affect your day-to-day benefits and will be paid at the LA Health Rate from the Hospital Benefit.

Your palliative care must be provided by registered providers

LA Health Medical Scheme will pay for these palliative healthcare services or treatments as long as the application is approved and you use appropriately registered providers (with a valid Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) registration number) who use valid tariff codes for the healthcare service or treatment.

Claims must be presented with the appropriate ICD-10 code

All accounts for palliative care must have a relevant and correct ICD-10 code (diagnosis code) for us to pay it from the correct benefit. To ensure there isn't a delay in paying your healthcare providers' accounts, please notify the team managing your treatment (or your loved one's treatment) about this requirement.

Nominating a person to assist you

Where you, as the patient, choose to nominate someone to assist you with managing your dealings with the Scheme, you must complete a third-party consent form. This form is available at www.lahealth.co.za or you can call us on 0860 103 933 to request the form.

If, at any stage, you want to revoke consent for sharing information, you must notify us accordingly.

Contact us

You can call us on **0860 103 933** or visit www.lahealth.co.za for more information.

Queries or complaints

You can lodge a query or complaint with LA Health Medical Scheme directly on 0860 103 933, or address a complaint in writing to the Principal Officer. If your complaint remains unresolved, you can lodge a formal dispute by following LA Health Medical Scheme's internal disputes process. You can read more about the disputes process on www.lahealth.co.za.

Once the Scheme's internal processes are exhausted, and the issues remain unresolved, you may approach the Council for Medical Schemes for assistance: Council for Medical Schemes Complaints Unit, Block A, Eco Glades 2 Office Park, 420 Witch-Hazel Avenue, Eco Park, Centurion, 0157 / complaints@medicalschemes.co.za / 0861 123 267 / www.medicalschemes.co.za