SAMWUMED
Real Heritage. Real People. Real Health Care.

November 2025

Dear Family Practitioner

SAMWUMED Family Practitioner Network Scheme Rates for 2026

Collaborating with healthcare providers remains a cornerstone of our commitment to delivering accessible, high-quality care to our members. As we look ahead to 2026, our focus is on enhancing care integration and expanding access to out-of-hospital services, clinical information, and member benefits through innovative solutions. We value your partnership and look forward to continuing our shared journey in advancing healthcare excellence.

Tariffs for 2026

We are pleased to announce that with effect from 1 January 2026, there will be a **4.2%** increase in the SAMWUMED Family Practitioner (FP) tariff rates. The reimbursement model will continue to include an **enhanced fee** in accordance with your REPI² category score as indicated below:

Family Practitioner Consultation Rates (0190 - 0192)	
SAMWUMED FP Network consultation rate	R547.40
Enhanced consultation fee for REPI² category 1 FP Network practices	R54.70
Enhanced consultation fee for REPI² category 2 FP Network practices	R27.40

One of the key objectives of the SAMWUMED FP Network is to safeguard members from unforeseen co-payments. Accordingly, we wish to reiterate the importance of adhering to the agreed SAMWUMED FP Network Rate (**R547.40**) to ensure cost predictability and member protection.

Important Billing Note

Please do not manually add the enhanced consultation fee to your SAMWUMED FP Network consultation fee **(R547.40)**. This enhanced fee will be automatically allocated to qualifying practices upon payment of consultations. Your remittance advice will reflect the comment code **247** for each consultation that qualifies for an enhanced fee. Please note that the enhanced fee amount will not appear on individual claim lines. Instead, the total value of all enhanced fees will be consolidated and displayed as a single amount, marked with code **247** and the description "**Enhanced fees**" at the beginning of the claim summary.

For example: 50 (consultations) X R54.70 (enhanced fee) = R2 735.00

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Coordination of Care
SAMWUMED is committed to promoting efficient healthcare delivery by positioning the Family Practitioner (FP) as the primary point of contact for members. This approach helps to reduce unnecessary specialist self-referrals, as the majority of health conditions can be effectively managed at the FP level. Where specialist intervention is required, the FP should initiate the referral and remain engaged in the member's care journey by staying informed of the specialist's findings and treatment decisions, thereby ensuring continuity and coordination of care.

Out-of-Hospital Referrals to Specialists and Auxiliary Providers
All SAMWUMED beneficiaries must obtain specialist referrals from their FPs **before** making out-of-hospital specialist appointments. Should a member not get a referral, the claim will not be paid.

An FP referral authorisation is required for consultations and all services rendered by specialists and auxiliary practitioners out of hospital, except orthodontics (practice type 64), which requires a referral by a dental practitioner, and ophthalmology (practice type 26), where referrals can be made by an optician and/or FP.

Referral Exceptions Include:
- Emergency Medicine Independent Practices (Type 35)
- Maternity-related services for pregnant members
- Two annual Gynaecologist visits for female beneficiaries
- Paediatrician/Paediatric Cardiologist visits for children under 2
- Mental health services with approved treatment in lieu of hospitalisation
- Psychologist to Psychiatrist referrals
- Specialist-to-Specialist referrals
- Oncology services by registered Oncologists/Haematologists
- Providers within managed care programmes (e.g. Weight Management, Mental Health, Back & Neck)
- Providers included in an active aPMB care plan
- Established specialist relationships (claims within the past 2 years)
- Renal dialysis consultations/treatment
- Follow-up visits within 8 weeks of hospital discharge for the same condition

Note: A referral number from an FP is only valid for **six months**.

Referrals to Specialists on the SAMWUMED Specialist Network
We encourage you to consistently refer SAMWUMED members to a specialist within the SAMWUMED Specialist Network.

To access the most up to date list of network specialists, please log in to the HCP Portal at www.medscheme.com and follow these steps:

- Navigate to the **HCPs** tab on the home page and log in using your **provider credentials**
- Click on the **Main Menu > Locator**
- Enter the **membership number**
- Choose **Country** and enter **South Africa**
- In the **Discipline Group** drop-down menu, select **Specialist**
- Specify the **preferred radius**
- Select the **Current Year** and **relevant Month**
- Click **Search**

Alternatively, call the **Healthcare Provider Contact Centre** on **0861 112 666.**

How to Obtain a Referral:

- Visit www.medscheme.com
- Navigate to the **HCPs** tab and log in using your **provider credentials**
- Navigate to **Main Menu** > **My Patients** > **Specialist Referral**
- Enter the membership number and select the appropriate **Beneficiary**
- If the specialist's practice number is known, enter it and select the preferred specialist from the map
- If the specialist practice number is unknown, select the relevant discipline, define the preferred search radius, click **Search,** and choose the preferred specialist from the map

Alternatively, use our IVR facility via the **Healthcare Provider Contact Centre** on **0861 112 666**

Note: The steps above may also be used to obtain an auxiliary referral.

Continuation of Agreement

You **are not required** to sign or return the 2026 SAMWUMED FP Network Agreement. Your continued participation in the network is appreciated and remains in effect.

Thank you for your continued commitment to delivering high-quality care. We look forward to working together to shape the future of healthcare in 2026.

Kind regards

SAMWUMED FP Network Management