Dear General Practitioner

2026 rates for Universal Healthcare Network General Practitioners

Collaborating with healthcare professionals is essential to providing our members with affordable, high-quality care. The exceptional service you have provided to our members in 2025 has been greatly appreciated, and we look forward to continuing our successful partnership into 2026.

1. Tariffs for 2026

Please be informed that effective 1 January 2026, there will be an inflationary adjustment to your General Practitioner tariff rates as detailed below:

Category	Category Description	2026 Fees (incl. VAT)
Category A	**Dispensing doctors:** Consultation fee including acute medication	R538
Category B	**Non-dispensing doctors:** Consultation fee including acute medication dispensed by a Universal Network Pharmacy	R538
Category C	**Non-dispensing doctors:** Consultation fee excluding acute medication (consultations only)	R372

To support the sustainability of our client schemes', we encourage you to manage downstream costs effectively while continuing to deliver high-quality care. We will reimburse you for performing specific procedures within your practice, rather than referring patients to hospitals for these interventions. The applicable tariffs for these services, including the cost of materials, can be billed in addition to the consultation fee.

Tariff Code	Tariff Description	2026 Fees (incl. VAT)
0255	Drainage of subcutaneous abscess onychia, paronychia, pulp space or avulsion of nail	R435
0259	Removal of foreign body superficial to deep fascia (except hands)	R620
0300	Stitching of soft-tissue injuries: Stitching of wound (with or without local anaesthesia): Including normal after-care)	R594
0301	Stitching of soft-tissue injuries: Additional wounds stitched at same session (each)	R124
0307	Excision and repair by direct suture; excision nail fold or other minor procedures of similar magnitude	R744
0887	Limb cast (excluding after-care) (modifier 0005 not applicable)	R655
1228	General Practitioners fee for the taking of an ECG only: Without effort	R86
3615	Routine obstetric ultrasound at 10 to 20 weeks gestational age preferable at 10 to 14 weeks gestational age toinclude nuchal translucency assessment	R927
3617	Routine obstetric ultrasound at 20 to 24 weeks to include detailed anatomical assessment	R927

2. Referral for Pathology and Radiology Services

Kindly be informed that all referrals for pathology and radiology services must be submitted using the attached Universal Referral Forms. It is important to adhere to the formularies reflected in these forms to ensure that these claims are not rejected.

For comprehensive information applicable to 2026, please refer to the attached General Practitioner Manual.

3. **Important information regarding GP pre-authorisation**

Scheme Name	Option/Plan	Comment
Massmart	Network & Essential	Pre-authorization is required after the 6th visit. No request for back-dating of authorisations will be approved without a letter of motivation which must be sent to Clinicalriskmanagementteam@universal.co.za for review.
Workplace Health Plan (WHP)	truCARE	Pre-authorization is required after the 4th visit. No request for back-dating of authorisations will be approved without a letter of motivation which must be sent to Clinicalriskmanagementteam@universal.co.za for review.

4. **Scheme Changes**

Please take note of the following changes that are taking place with our clients:

1. WCMAS will no longer be administered by Universal Care with effect from **1 January 2026**.
2. Consumer Council Medical Scheme (CGMS) has expanded its offering with the introduction of two new options; **UltraSave** and **CoreSave** effective **1 October 2025**.

5. **Registration on Universal Healthcare Provider Portal**

We would like to invite you to register on the Universal Healthcare provider portal. This portal is designed to provide you with convenient access to essential tools and information to streamline your interactions within our network

To register on the Universal Healthcare provider portal, please use the following link: https://tinyurl.com/yckt9vww

Kind regards

Provider Networks Team