What to do in a medical emergency

Definition of a medical emergency

The Medical Schemes Act 131 of 1998 defines an "emergency medical condition" as "the sudden and, at the time, unexpected onset of a health condition that requires immediate medical or surgical treatment, where failure to provide medical or surgical treatment would result in serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of a body organ or part, or would place the person's life in serious jeopardy".

Guidelines when dealing with a medical emergency

- Call the ambulance service listed as the preferred provider on your medical scheme (save the number on your phone).
- You can go to any private hospital in a life-threatening emergency. If you are admitted to hospital, the medical scheme will cover your emergency hospital admission and related treatment.
- Members on restricted hospital network plans will be taken to the nearest hospital and might be transferred to a network hospital once the medical professional confirms that the patient is stable and safe to be transferred.
- Emergencies must be authorised within 48 hours of going to hospital, or on the first working day after a weekend or public holiday. If you don't obtain pre-authorisation, your account will not be settled by the medical scheme.

Ensure that you always have your medical scheme card with you or save your electronic medical scheme card on your phone and request a car sticker from your medical scheme. This is helpful to emergency personnel when visible in case of a car accident.

Does medical aid cover emergency room/casualty visits?

If you require treatment at an emergency unit for a medical emergency as defined in the Medical Schemes Act, the doctor who treats you will certify the condition as a medical emergency before a medical scheme will approve it as a prescribed minimum benefits (PMB) condition.

25 April is <u>World Malaria Day</u>

2022 - WHO African Region

Carrying a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden - the region is home to:

- 94% malaria cases (233 million people)
 95% malaria deaths (580 thousand people)
- **80%** of children under 5 years accounted for all malaria deaths

2022 - Globally

In 85 countries:



million estimated malaria cases



thousand estimated malaria deaths



Malaria can be prevented by avoiding mosquito bites and taking medication. Speak to your doctor about preventative medication before travelling to areas where malaria is common.

Health Connect 2/2024

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