

# Oncology

## Oncology programme

The last thing you should worry about when you are diagnosed with cancer, is whether your medical aid will cover the treatment. That is why Medihelp provides support through our oncology programme in cooperation with the oncologists of the Independent Clinical Oncology Network (ICON) to give you the best care and treatment.

## Who is ICON?

ICON is the Independent Clinical Oncology Network, and more than 80% of the country's oncologists belong to this network. They provide the highest quality cancer care based on unique, evidence-based protocols and have a national footprint with high-tech chemotherapy and radiotherapy facilities.

## What to do when you are diagnosed

After you have been diagnosed, please phone us on **086 0100 678**. We have a dedicated helpdesk to assist you with all your questions regarding cover for your treatment. You will be registered on the Medihelp Oncology Programme before your treatment begins - this means that your treatment has to be pre-authorised. Your ICON oncologist will make the necessary arrangements and complete the required forms.

### Completed oncology treatment forms can be:

 Emailed to [oncology@medihelp.co.za](mailto:oncology@medihelp.co.za)

 Faxed to **086 0064 762**

**086 0100 678** | [www.medihelp.co.za](http://www.medihelp.co.za)

## Types of treatment and protocols

Medihelp's oncology benefits are based on ICON'S treatment protocols, depending on your particular benefit option. The treatment must follow the protocols applicable to your benefit option to qualify for benefits.

### Benefits are granted for the following treatments that can also be received in combination:

- Chemotherapy – the use of chemicals (medicine) to destroy cancer cells – both intravenous and oral treatments
- Radiation therapy – the use of ionising radiation to destroy cancer cells
- Brachytherapy – the use of internal radiotherapy to fight prostate, cervical, breast and skin cancer
- Surgery – where doctors remove the cancer surgically
- Medicine – to help you cope with side effects

## Non-PMB oncology

If the cancer does not qualify for PMB, a benefit amount applies per option, while non-PMB bone marrow/stem cell transplants do not qualify for benefits.

The Plus option covers both PMB and non-PMB oncology without a minimum benefit amount being applied to non-PMB oncology, while Necesses covers only PMB oncology.

## Cancer and PMB

The majority of oncology cases qualify for PMB, and all Medihelp's benefit options offer benefits for cancer that qualifies for PMB. To qualify for PMB, the cancer must:

- only be present in the organ in which it originated;
- show no evidence of distant metastatic spread to other organs; and
- show no permanent and irreparable damage to the organ in which it originated, or any other organ.




There must be a well demonstrated and documented five-year survival rate of more than 10% after treatment of the condition.

## Medicine according to the Medihelp Oncology Reference Price

If you choose to use medicine which costs more than the applicable Medihelp Oncology Reference Price, you will be liable to pay the difference between the cost of the medicine dispensed and the reference price used to determine the benefit amount.

## Prime network options only Oncology medicine

Medihelp's designated service providers for oncology medicine are Dis-Chem Oncology and Medipost. To obtain your medicine, please contact:

Dis-Chem Oncology	Medipost
010 003 8948	 012 404 4430
<a href="mailto:oncology@dischem.co.za">oncology@dischem.co.za</a>	 <a href="mailto:oncology@medipost.co.za">oncology@medipost.co.za</a>
086 597 0573	 086 680 3319

## Avoiding co-payments

### Please make sure that –

- Your oncologist is part of the ICON network
- You use medicines listed on the Medihelp Oncology Reference Price list

### Prime network option members

- Get your medicine from Dis-Chem Oncology or Medipost