

26 November 2019

Dear Tittle Initial Surname  
**Membership Number:** 00000000  
**Dependent code:** 00

Our records show that you are currently registered or have recently claimed for medication through the **Chronic Medicine Management Programme**. Please note that cheaper equivalents have recently become available for one or more of your medications, resulting in a lower average **generic reference price** for these medications.

Polmed uses a scientifically based calculation to determine the reimbursement level of each generically equivalent medication class. Please request your pharmacist to provide you with a medication that falls within the Polmed Generic Reference Price in order to avoid a potential co-payment.

**What is the 'Polmed Generic Reference Price'?**

The Polmed Generic Reference Price is the maximum price that Polmed will pay for medication that has one or more generic equivalents that can be considered in its place. Generic medication contains exactly the same active ingredients and strength as a branded product (patent). However, they are usually less costly than the branded product. Should a generic reference price be set for a generic class of medication, members are entitled to make use of any medication within this pricing limit, but will be required to make a co-payment on medication priced above the generic reference pricing limit. By limiting the amount that will be paid for a type or group of medication, the Scheme ensures that you are getting a proven treatment at a cost-effective price, and that you get maximum use out of your Chronic Medicine Benefit.

**How will this affect me and what do I need to do?**

To check which of your medications are affected, refer to the table at the end of this letter. The table highlights your current medication which attracts a co-payment with effect from 1 January 2020. Discuss this change with your pharmacist or doctor and ask them to recommend generic alternatives from the Polmed Generic Reference Price List that do not attract co-payments. If you use a generic alternative from this list, you will not need to update your chronic medicine authorisation.



A full list of generic alternatives is available on the Polmed website [www.polmed.co.za](http://www.polmed.co.za) for you to consider. When checking the **Polmed Generic Reference Price List** on the website, please take note of your medication name and its strength, and follow these steps:

- Click on "MEMBERS" then "Programmes" and choose "Medicine Management" from the drop-down menu; then scroll down and click on "Polmed Generic Reference Price List – changes effective 1 January 2020".
- Using the "Find" option in the toolbar, type in the name of your medication and click 'Search'.
- Remember to check the strength of your medication.

If you need more information on the recommended alternatives, your doctor or pharmacist will be able to assist you.  
**Please note:** Using a non-DSP supplier/pharmacy will result in an additional co-payment.

**Designated Service Providers (DSPs)**

Polmed's DSP for chronic medication is the Polmed Pharmacy Network. The list of network pharmacies can be found on the POLMED website (click on 'DSP' and choose 'Pharmacy Network' from the drop-down menu). If you get your medication from any other medicine supplier, you will have to pay a 20% co-payment which will not be refunded by the Scheme.



**Should you have any further queries regarding the above, please contact our Chronic Medicine Management Department on 0860 765 633 (follow the voice prompts) or email [polmedcmm@medscheme.co.za](mailto:polmedcmm@medscheme.co.za).**

Kind regards

**Chronic Medicine Management**



Current medication	Reference pricing co-payment due from
GLUCOPHAGE 1000MG	1 January 2020
DISPRIN 300MG	1 January 2020