

Dr Douwe Vellema
P.O. Box 1875
George
6530

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Enquiries: Daphney Setswe

Email: jessical@polmed.co.za

Dear Healthcare Provider

In lieu of Hospitalization care during the COVID-19 pandemic and after

Polmed recognises that patients require ongoing care and services. As the COVID-19 levels of lockdown decrease, there is relieve in restrictions. Although we are excited about this it could mean an influx in hospitals resulting in high bed occupancy caused by additional non-COVID-19 related admissions.

Early discharge of suitable patients into appropriate alternatives to hospital should be encouraged.

We would therefore like to encourage practitioners to make use of the nursing agencies in their communities for suitable patients, noting that the decision to discharge a patient into the home-based care pathway rests entirely with the treating healthcare professional. The professional concerned should have assessed the patient as suitable and fit for such intervention.

Alternatives to hospitalisation will be funded for patients who are medically stable but require ongoing care under the watchful eye of a nurse. Pre-authorisation by our managed care organization is required for approval of this service

Polmed together with Medscheme has engaged the service providers that are listed in Annexure A. These providers offer experienced staff, trained to the highest level of standards and care in line with the services they provide as well as employ the appropriate care.

The list of Service Providers is subject to change as in when new providers are identified.

Process to follow for transfer of suitable patients Alternatives to Acute Hospitalisation

To simplify the process and reduce unnecessary administration, please send an email to homebasedcare@medscheme.co.za with the below mentioned information or fill in the Referral Template **as attached**. Relevant information includes:

- Update of the patient's clinical status.
- Indicate the location (home, sub-acute, etc.) as well as the estimated duration of care required.
- Indicate your preferred service provider, or whether Medscheme should appoint one of the agencies on our database.
- Medscheme will confirm the authorisation particulars back to you, including the details of the Home-based Care team for accurate patient handover and follow-up

Kind regards,

Dr V Mpongoshe
Senior Clinical Service Manager