



POLMED






OUR INVESTMENT OUR HEALTH OUR FUTURE



WAITING PERIODS EXPLAINED

Dear Member,

Waiting periods and underwriting are terms used by medical aid schemes. But do you know what they mean and how they affect your membership? In this communication, we break down these terms for you.

-  **WHAT IS UNDERWRITING?**
Underwriting is a risk management process used by the scheme to manage financial risk by applying general and condition specific waiting periods for pre-existing conditions or illnesses.
 -  **3-MONTH WAITING PERIOD**
A waiting period in which the beneficiary is not eligible for benefits.
 -  **CONDITION-SPECIFIC WAITING PERIOD**
This is a 12-month period in which the scheme does not cover any pre-existing illness.
 -  **LATE JOINING PENALTY**
This penalty is applied to beneficiaries over 35 years as a percentage of their contributions according to the number of years they did not have credible cover from a previous medical aid. This penalty is applied for the entire duration of membership. Members must provide the Scheme with all membership certificates from previous medical aids so that the late joiner penalty can be calculated correctly.
 -  **NON-DISCLOSURE**
This applies when the member intentionally does not disclose pre-existing illnesses or conditions in the medical history section of the application form. Upon investigation, members who request treatment for conditions not listed on the application form as pre-existing will be identified as non-disclosure. In this case, the 12-month condition-specific waiting period will be retrospectively applied to the illness/condition not disclosed by the member in line with the Scheme rules.
- It is important for members to disclose all the health information on the application form so that correct waiting periods can be applied and to avoid non-disclosure at a later stage.



WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR WAITING PERIODS:

- New members joining the Scheme from the date of appointment by the employer, and their application is received within 30 days of the employment date.
- New-born children, born into the Scheme.
- Dependants who were previously on medical aid for 24 months join the Scheme within 90 days from the date of termination of the previous scheme.
- Spouse joining where the application is received within 30 days of the marriage date.



WAITING PERIODS WILL BE APPLIED TO:

- Members joining the Scheme after 30 days from the date of employment.
- Dependants who have never been on medical aid previously.
- Dependants who have been on medical aid for up to 24 months join the Scheme within 90 days from the termination date of the previous medical aid. Condition specific waiting periods will be applied.
- Dependants joining the Scheme where the condition-specific waiting periods were applied by the previous medical aid and the balance of the waiting periods will be applied from the date of registration on POLMED.

If you'd like more info on waiting periods and our underwriting process, please get in touch with our Customer Care Call Centre at **0860 765 633** or email **polmed@medscheme.co.za**

Regards,
POLMED

