

Discovery Health in numbers

February 2013

Discovery Health continues to grow and attract new members to the schemes that it administers. In February, Discovery Health had close to **2.77 million lives** under management.

Total hospital costs for February were R1 038 million. Some of the major drivers of the high-cost admissions were:

- **Transplants**, including heart and lung, and liver transplants – the average costs for these transplants range from **R721 000** to **R1.78 million**
- **ICU care** for premature babies – average cost of **R680 000**
- Long term **ventilation** – average cost of **R639 000**
- Of the top 10 highest hospital costs paid in February 2013, six relate to long-term ventilation totalling **R12.4 million** (60% of Top 10 costs)
- The highest cost for February 2013 was **R2.4 million** for an 81-year old patient that has inborn errors of metabolism and has been admitted for more than 141 days.

Lens procedures were the most common reason for admission (2 921), followed by digestive system diagnoses (2 888) and caesareans (2 596). The total cost for the top 10 admission conditions amounted to **R211 million**.

Discovery Health has over 331 556 registered members on the Chronic Illness Benefit and in total **R1.76 billion** was paid for chronic medicine over the past year. Hypertension remains the highest registered chronic condition, with 250 312 members, compared to the next highest condition of hyperlipidaemia with 139 124 registered members and asthma with 80 802.

The Oncology Programme has grown in both costs and enrolled members. For February 2013, **R203 million** was spent on 34 340 oncology members.

Glucose testing was the number one Vitality screening test among members with 45 291 screenings completed during February.



2 Hospital-related costs

Hospital costs represent the total cost for all authorised hospital admissions paid by the Scheme. This includes all payments to hospitals, specialists and support providers such as radiologists and pathologists.



2.1 Top 10 conditions ranked by number of admissions

All conditions are defined using Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) that group admissions into clinically homogeneous groups. The top conditions ranked by number of admissions are shown below.

Top conditions ranked by number of admissions (March 2012 to February 2013)
February 2013

Lens procedures



26 720
2 921

Other digestive system diagnoses with scope



29 616
2 888

Caesarean delivery



32 348
2 596

Simple pneumonia and whooping cough



25 332
1 830

Oesophagitis, gastroenteritis and miscellaneous digestive disorders



18 203
1 741

Other factors influencing health status



21 111
1 660

Psychoses



14 340
1 539

Tonsil and adenoid procedures



19 359
1 411

Uterine and adnexa procedures



14 338
1 373

Oesophageal disorders with scope



14 149
1 333

Total costs

Top 10 conditions:

February 2013

R211
million

March 2012 to
February 2013

R3.21
billion

2.2 Top conditions ranked by average cost

The top conditions are shown below, ranked by the average cost of admission for each of these conditions. The average cost of admission for any given condition is calculated by dividing the total cost of all admissions by the number of admissions for that particular condition.

Top conditions ranked by average cost – March 2012 to February 2013



Heart and lung transplant

R1 779 245



Liver transplant

R720 769



Premature babies smaller
than 1 000g with major
operations

R680 189



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

R639 498



Heart transplant

R541 850



Kidney and pancreas
transplant

R541 682



Premature babies between
1 000g and 1 499g with major
operations

R506 526



Lung transplant

R502 502



Major surgical procedures
in newborn babies with low
birth weight (1 500g - 1 999g)

R377 961



Craniotomy, spine, hip and
major limb procedures

R330 856

2.3 Top 10 highest hospital cost admissions

The following table shows the highest hospital costs paid in February 2013, in relation to admissions between March 2012 and February 2013.



Inborn errors of metabolism

81 years old
R2 424 349
Length of stay: 141 days



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

57 years old
R2 250 541
Length of stay: 60 days



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

22 years old
R2 178 027
Length of stay: 116 days



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

56 years old
R2 124 659
Length of stay: 152 days



Other cardiothoracic
procedures

Younger than 1
R2 073 292
Length of stay: 124 days



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

64 years old
R1 994 807
Length of stay: 123 days



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

80 years old
R1 937 642
Length of stay: 74 days



Critical care for long-term
mechanical ventilation

37 years old
R1 892 834
Length of stay: 164 days



Kidney and urinary tract
malignancy and renal failure

66 years old
R1 875 443
Length of stay: 121 days



Newborn baby smaller than
1 000g with major operations

Younger than 1
R1 825 467
Length of stay: 164 days

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Chronic conditions and further disease management

The illustration below shows the number of members claiming for registered chronic conditions, as covered by Discovery Health's Chronic Illness Benefit. The total represents the amount paid for chronic medicine over the past year.

Chronic overview



3.1 Top 9 chronic conditions as shown by the total cost to the Scheme

The chronic conditions below accounted for the largest spend on chronic medicine for the Scheme. These conditions represent those defined by the Prescribed Minimum Benefits and the additional chronic conditions covered by Discovery Health (up to 65 conditions depending on plan choice). The figures represent the number of members registered per condition as at February 2013.



3.2 Oncology Programme

The table below shows the total number of members enrolled on the Oncology Programme. The 'Total Cost' for these members is split to specifically include spend related to oncology. The figures represent the number of members on active treatment for each condition in 2013.



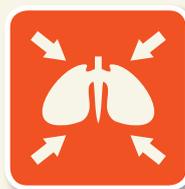
Organ cancer

26 942



Blood cancer

3 627



Localised cancer

2 726



Other cancers

1 045

February 2013

March 2012 to February 2013



Oncology spend for oncology claimants:

R96 million

R960 million



Non-oncology spend for oncology claimants:

R107 million

R1.2 million



Total spend (oncology and non-oncology) for oncology claimants:

R203 million

R2.16 billion

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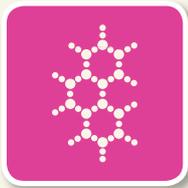
Preventive care

(March 2012 to February 2103
February 2013)

Vitality incentivises members to get actively involved in improving their health. Apart from encouraging members to exercise and lead a healthy lifestyle, Vitality also encourages the early detection of disease. The Screening and Prevention Benefit offers members access to preventive screening for a number of chronic conditions. Members are rewarded through the Vitality programme for participating in these screening tests.

Vitality screening

Glucose test



325 119

45 291

Cholesterol test



252 120

34 156

HIV test



257 267

30 861



Pap smear



128 340

14 306

Prostate screening



42 143

5 658

Blood pressure test



185 972

24 359

Mammogram



50 132

4 985

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International Travel Benefit

The International Travel Benefit, Discovery 911 and a range of emergency service partners provide peace of mind to Discovery Health members in the event of an emergency – locally and internationally.

Members on all plans, except KeyCare and InHouse schemes, have cover for medical emergencies when travelling internationally. The International Travel Benefit provides cover for emergency medical expenses outside the borders of South Africa, including evacuation and medically necessary repatriation costs.

Number of International Travel Benefit calls

February 2013

640

March 2012 to February 2013

11 226

