

# Medibank Private Special Purpose Fund Notes for applicants

These notes explain the Medibank Private Special Purpose Fund (the SPF) established by Medibank Private. You must read these notes before applying to the SPF.

## In particular please note:

Medibank Private makes no representation, guarantee or assurance whatsoever that an applicant will be eligible for or entitled to any payment from the SPF. Any decision to pay benefits from the SPF and the amount of any such payment is at the sole and absolute discretion of the independent Approvals Committee.

Medibank Private neither takes nor assumes any responsibility for the quality, safety or efficacy of the product and/or service provided to members under this scheme.

Medibank Private or the independent Approvals Committee may at any time before or after approval or payment, seek additional information or make their own enquiries to verify the information contained in the application or for audit purposes.

## 1. Background

The Medibank Private Special Purpose Fund was established to provide funding for qualifying applications in relation to certain leading-edge clinical intervention procedures, such as new drug therapies, surgical procedures, and other medical treatments not usually covered under Medibank Private's rules.

The SPF was established in 2004 when a total of \$5 million was committed. Once the total amount of \$5 million has been expended or committed, no further applications will be considered. Any existing applications under consideration will lapse and no further payments will be made out of the SPF.

An independent Approvals Committee was appointed to make decisions as to payment eligibility from the SPF. Any amount payable to an eligible applicant will be determined at the sole and exclusive discretion of the independent Approvals Committee.

Leading-edge interventions are emerging new treatments that are supported by:

- Strong scientific research
- Current results of research and clinical practice
- Credible and relevant sources of information
- Clinical expert opinion.

## 2. Important terms

- The SPF is a discretionary administrative scheme funded by Medibank Private. Medibank Private makes no representation, guarantee or assurance whatsoever that an applicant will be eligible for or entitled to any payment from the SPF. Applicants should not take any action or inaction or incur any costs or expenses on the assumption or in the expectation that an amount will or may be payable from the SPF.
- The independent Approvals Committee is responsible for assessing applications and determining, where appropriate, the amount of benefit payable to a qualifying member (if any). Any decision to pay benefits from the SPF and the amount of any such payment is at the sole and absolute discretion of the independent Approvals Committee.
- Medibank Private may withdraw the SPF, suspend the SPF or vary the qualification criteria or the manner of operation of the SPF at any time without notice.
- Medibank Private may seek further information from your treating medical practitioner in connection with your application. By completing this form you consent to your treating medical practitioner providing such information to Medibank Private.
- Medibank Private neither takes nor assumes any responsibility for the quality, safety or efficacy of the product and/or service provided to members under this scheme. Members should rely on their own enquiries and seek any assurance or warranty directly from the provider of the service or product.

### 3. Who can apply to the SPF?

You may qualify to apply to the SPF for a payment only if:

- a. You have held a resident hospital cover as a member of Medibank Private for 12 months (dependants and partners added to qualifying memberships after that date are eligible to apply provided any applicable waiting periods have been served).

Please note, the following covers are excluded from consideration:

- Overseas Student Health Cover,
- Basic Visitors Cover,
- Visitor Cover Packages,
- Working Visa Health Insurance,
- Ambulance Cover, and
- Extras only covers.

- b. Your membership of Medibank Private:
  - i. is not currently in arrears and is not in arrears at the time the treatment is provided;
  - ii. is not currently suspended and is not suspended at the time the treatment is provided; and
- c. All membership waiting periods and benefit limitation periods have been served.
- d. Total funding for the requested treatment is not available from another source.
- e. You, the treatments, services or costs are not excluded by the exclusions set out in the section below.

### 4. What treatments are excluded?

Services excluded from eligibility and consideration for payment from the SPF include but are not limited to:

- Retrospective applications for treatments which have already taken place
- Treatments for conditions which are restricted or excluded services under your level of cover
- Treatments already covered under Medibank Private's Fund Rules or business rules
- Treatments eligible for consideration under Medibank Private's Clinical Ex-gratia Policy
- Treatments which have not been recommended by your treating medical practitioner
- Treatments which do not have an emerging evidence base to support their use
- Experimental treatments
- Personal care services for support and maintenance in the community
- Home and car modifications
- Nursing home or residential care facility fees and bonds

- Training or sporting programs
- Respite services/holidays
- Death benefits – funeral services/cremation
- Cosmetic procedures
- Home birthing services
- Treatments of an ongoing and indefinite nature ie. lifelong treatment
- Any other exclusions determined at the discretion of the Approvals Committee.

### 5. How can I apply?

Applications must be made by the member. Applications made by organisations or providers will not be considered. Collective applications will not be considered.

If you believe that you are eligible to apply to the SPF and that your membership, treatment, services or costs are not listed as exclusions, your application may be eligible for consideration by the independent Approvals Committee for a payment from the SPF. To make an application:

- a. Please print, complete and sign the Application form. Your treating medical practitioner is required to complete and sign parts of this form explaining the treatment. Additional information supporting this application may be attached if necessary.
- b. Send your completed application to:  
Medibank Private  
Special Purpose Fund  
Reply Paid 9999  
Melbourne Vic 8060

### 6. What happens next?

- a. Receipt of your application will be acknowledged in writing.
- b. Medibank Private will process your application and forward it to the independent Approvals Committee for consideration.
- c. You and your treating medical practitioner will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application within 30 days of acknowledgment of receipt by Medibank Private.

### 7. Questions?

If you have any further queries about applying to the SPF please contact us on 132 331 or via email [MedibankSPF@medibank.com.au](mailto:MedibankSPF@medibank.com.au)

If you need an additional copy of the Application form, you can find it at [medibank.com.au](http://medibank.com.au)