

January 2017

Dear Doctor

Introducing the Discovery Health Surgeon Practice Quality Report

There is a major global movement towards maximising value in healthcare systems by achieving the best clinical outcomes at the most affordable cost. We firmly believe that this goal is achievable and sustainable in the South African private healthcare sector.

In pursuit of this standard of excellence, we have collaborated with Surgicom to develop and distribute the Surgeon Practice Quality Report. In our own organisation, we are committed to continuous improvement. In the same vein, the Report is aimed at constructively identifying new opportunities for enhancing patient care and supporting surgeons in driving these opportunities.

2015 Surgeon Practice Quality Report

The 2015 Report highlights a number of the key utilisation and quality measures in a single, concise report presenting a meaningful view of important aspects of care delivered to members of medical schemes we administer.

Of course, the Report is not an exhaustive presentation of all measures or aspects of care. We intend to regularly update and revise it as needed with enhanced measures based on your feedback about what is relevant to your practice and important to the population you care for.

The 2015 data set will be followed by the release of the 2016 view midyear.

As a start, the report includes five procedures:

- Vein ligation and stripping
- Appendectomies (open and laparoscopic)
- Anal procedures
- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy
- Inguinal and femoral hernia procedures (open and laparoscopic)

The Report is compiled for all surgeons who treated **20 or more** more members of the Discovery Health Medical Scheme during 2014. We have also added a list of treated patients and their associated ICD-10 diagnostic codes that were supplied by the practice on claims submission.

We value your feedback on the Report

The Report is intended to stimulate a constructive, ongoing dialogue on how to assess value, explain quality defects, improve relevant outcomes and match resources to clinical need. Discovery Health and Surgicom would therefore appreciate your feedback on the Report, with a specific focus on the following issues:

- Whether you had any difficulty in interpreting your report
- Whether the meaning of terms or exhibits is explained in sufficient detail
- The methods used to produce the report, including methods of attributing patients to surgeons, computing per capita costs of your patients, or risk adjusting per capita costs
- Ways in which you might use the report in your practice
- How the content, design and methods of the report could be enhanced for your use in activities relating to quality of care and cost improvement
- Points related to your profile results or issues of a clinical nature. You are welcome to raise these matters directly with Surgicom or make contact with Discovery Health to arrange for a discussion with the society on your behalf.

Please send your comments or requests to healthpartnerinfo@discovery.co.za with the subject line "Surgicom Governance Project".

We look forward to engaging with you on the 2015 Report and receiving your feedback.

Regards



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