

# KeiMed Billing Policy

## **Background**

KeiMed is an association of Specialist Anaesthesiologists based in East London with administrative offices at the Life Beacon Bay Hospital.

All the associates are registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa as specialists and have an accumulative experience in anesthesia and intensive care of more than 150 years.

We provide a full range of all-hour anesthetic and intensive care services at Life St Dominic's Hospital, Life Beacon Bay Hospital, St James' Day Hospital, St Mark's Hospital, Cure Day Hospital and the East London Day Hospital.

## **Our References**

We are members of the following professional bodies and ascribe to their ethical guidelines and standards in terms of billing procedures:

1. The Medical Association of South Africa (SAMA)
2. The South African Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA)
3. The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)
4. The Private Practice Business Unit, a subsidiary of SASA (PPBU)

The coding structure used in our billing is prescribed by the Medical Doctor's Coding Manual (MDCM), a registered product of SAMA, and is the general accepted industry reference. The PPBU publishes a Coding Guideline to which we also subscribe. Please note that we refer to the most recent versions of these publications.

Should any dispute arise regarding the validity of the codes used in preparing an account, KeiMed will consider the rules set out in the most recent **Private Practice and Coding Guidelines**, published by SASA, as the correct ethical interpretation.

## **Fee Structure**

Currently there are about 327 medical aid plans available to patients in South Africa. After a general negotiated fee structure with the medical aid industry was declared unlawful in 2004 by the Competition Commission, individual medical aids embarked on their own fee structures.

Anesthetic accounts are prepared per unit, where a unit reflects a certain level of required expertise. Each account, therefore, consists of a number of anesthetic and clinical units. A specific rand value is ascribed to each unit which is then added up to represent the total amount due.

Due to the complexity of medical service costing, and in line with the Consumer Protection Act, we at KeiMed charge a range of fees as determined by the costs involved in delivering a professional service.

<b>Comparing different medical aid rates</b>	
	<b><u>Anaesthetic Unit</u></b>
<b>Discovery</b>	R262.45
<b>GEMS</b>	R126.24

**Please note that we may charge a higher service fee after hours (7pm – 7am) and on weekends due to the increased cost of delivering such a service.**

### **Our Terms**

We are not contracted to any Medical aids, and as such, the patient and/or guarantor remains responsible for payment of the account.

The account is payable strictly before or on 30 (thirty) days after service delivery.

Accounts older than 60 (sixty) days will attract interest and handed over to a lawyer for debt recovery.

### **Account Administration**

Accounts may be managed and submitted to a Medical Aid by KeiMed on behalf of a patient. This service is delivered free of charge.

The submission of an account does not however constitute transfer of the liability for payment onto the Medical Aid or KeiMed.

The patient and/or guarantor will ultimately be responsible for payment, and will be informed of any short payments by the Medical Aid during the course of the account administration process.

Any queries may be directed to the Medical Aid, or alternatively, to our rooms at the contact section on our website.