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GENERAL NOTICE

No. 123



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Reference: Tariff Reviews

Tel No: 040 606 1232
Date: 06 February 2012

Adjustment of tariffs: Patient Fees 2012/2013

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this submission is to obtain Treasury Approval in terms of Treasury Regulations 7.3.1 for the adjustment of the patient fee structure of the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

2. **BACKGROUND**

The department charges fees to patients who present themselves for treatment at the public health institutions. These fees are charged according to the

- Ability of patients to pay for healthcare services rendered – means test.
- Level of public health service delivery
- Level of the health practitioner rendering the health care service
- Type of health care service rendered
- Bed type/ ward if the patient is admitted

This means that patient fees will differ accordingly as above. Services rendered to indigent patients, however, are all inclusive and do not differentiate on bed / ward type and level of health care practitioner.

1. **CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS ACCORDING TO MEANS TEST AND EXPLANATION OF TARIFFS**

Patients are thus classified as follows;

Table 1 – Patient Classification

Category	Description	Applicable tariff
H0	No Income Social pensioners	Services are free except where specified
H1	Individual : Income less than R36 000 per annum Household : Income less than R50 000 per annum	Minimum tariff applies and services are all inclusive. Maximum tariffs apply where specified
H2	Individual : Income less than R72 000 per annum Household : Income less than R100 000 per annum	A tariff above minimum is charged. Differentiation and Itemized billing applies
H3 Self Funded	Earnings above R72 000 per annum single and R100 000 per annum household	85% of full UPFS tariff
Externally funded	Patients covered by a Health Insurance, and treated in a 'public ward'	Full UPFS rates apply
Interdepartmental patients	E.g. Claimants from the Road Accident Fund/ Persons on awaiting trial e.t.c.	Full UPFS rates apply
Private patients	Patients who prefer to be treated by their own doctors in a public hospital, including pregnant and lactating women and children under 6 years	Full UPFS Facility rates apply
Private patients	Patients treated in differentiated amenities	NHRPL equivalent or tariffs agreed to with Medical Aid Schemes.

2. **FREE SERVICES**

There exist certain circumstances under which patients will receive services free of charge. Such services include, but are not limited to Primary health care services. These services are illustrated in Table 2 below.

3. **BY PASS FEE**

A by pass fee of R50.00 will be charged to all patients who come to public health hospitals without a referral letter from primary health care institutions and or a doctor.

4. **IMPLEMENTATION OF 2012/13 TARIFFS**

UPFS tariffs will increase by 5.4 % from the 2011/12 financial year and the increase applies to externally funded patients only. Tariffs for self funded patients have not increased.

5. **CONSULTATION**

On approval of the tariff reviews by Provincial Treasury, communities and other relevant stakeholders will be informed, and the tariffs will be gazetted.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The adjustment of tariffs will increase revenue.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is hereby recommended that Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury approves the adjustment of tariffs with effect from 1 April 2012.

Yours in Health



Superintendent General

c.c. The Honorable MEC for Health
