

Discovery Health Benefit Tracker August 2009



1. Membership

	August 2009
Total number of lives managed	2.17 million

2. Hospital-related costs

Hospital costs represent the total cost for all authorised hospital admissions paid by the scheme. Total cost includes all payments to hospitals, specialists and support providers such as radiology and pathology.

	August 2009	September 2008 to August 2009
Total hospital costs	R632.7 million	R10.53 billion

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	Number of admissions	
	August 2009	September 2008 to August 2009
Pneumonia and whooping cough	2 515	19 347
Gastroenteritis and abdominal pain	1 833	25 966
Caesarean delivery	1 680	24 341
Digestive system disorders	1 326	17 637
Cataract operations	1 204	17 055
Symptoms related to the respiratory system	1 136	8 710
Other ear, nose, mouth and throat disorders	1 085	10 402
Tonsil and adenoid operations	1 006	14 846
Arm and hand operations	750	10 161
Knee and lower leg operations	724	9 574
Total cost for top 10 conditions	R164 million	R2.25 billion

2.2 Top conditions ranked by average cost

The top conditions ranked by the average cost per admission are shown below. The average cost per condition represents the total cost for all admissions divided by the number of admissions.

Top conditions ranked by average cost	September 2008 to August 2009
Liver transplant	R560 850
Premature babies < 1 000 g with major operations	R511 827
Premature babies 1 000 - 1 499 g with major operations	R492 550
Premature babies 1 500 - 1 999 g with major operations	R482 729
Long term ventilation through tracheostomy	R472 747
Heart and/or lung transplant	R408 682
Premature babies 2 000 - 2 499 g with major operations	R314 984
Babies > 2 499 g with operations	R303 653
Bone marrow transplant	R287 858
Major cardiac operations	R282 346

2.3 Top 10 highest hospital cost admissions

Highest hospital costs settled in August 2009, related to admissions between September 2008 and August 2009

Condition	Age of member (years)	Total cost	Length of stay (days)
Craniotomy	35	R2 027 225	172
Critical care	71	R1 652 046	98
Neonatal < 5 days old	Less than 1	R1 642 228	84
Non-bacterial infections of nervous system	55	R1 641 737	130
Critical care	44	R1 548 423	77
Other respiratory system procedures	19	R1 462 688	41
Coronary bypass	74	R1 325 188	59
Critical care	42	R1 320 914	82
Critical care	63	R1 295 234	74
Critical care	50	R1 260 177	120

3. Chronic conditions and further disease management

The following table shows the number of members claiming for a registered chronic condition through Discovery Health's Chronic Illness Benefit. The total paid represents the total amount paid for chronic medicines over the past year.

	Members	Total paid
Chronic overview	230 601	R1.33 billion

3.1 Top 10 chronic conditions as shown by the total cost to the scheme

The chronic conditions below represent the conditions that accounted for the largest spend on chronic medicines for the scheme. These conditions represent the conditions defined in terms of the Prescribed Minimum Benefits, as well as the additional chronic conditions approved by Discovery Health — up to 65 conditions depending on plan choice.

	Members registered in August 2009
Hypertension	175 889
Hyperlipidaemia	98 147
Asthma	55 955
Major depression	18 067
Diabetes mellitus type 1	16 641
HIV and AIDS	13 837
Epilepsy	12 215
Bipolar mood disorder	9 468
Chronic renal failure	1 501
Multiple sclerosis	743

3.2 Oncology Management Programme

The table below shows the total number of members enrolled on the Oncology Management Programme.

	Number of members on active treatment in August 2009
Organ cancer	17 179
Blood cancer	2 305
Localised cancer	1 375
Other cancers	760
Total cost over last 12 months	R1.51 billion

4. Preventive care

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 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	Number of tests	
	August 2009	September 2008 to August 2009
Blood pressure	16 715	127 068
Cholesterol	21 529	227 476
Glucose	28 704	313 887
HIV	10 984	106 022
Mammograms	498	6 991
Pap smears	8 285	106 088
Prostate screening	2 294	32 215

5. Emergency care

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 or internationally.

Members on all plans, except KeyCare 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.

	August 2009	September 2008 to August 2009
Number emergency cases managed	2 425	30 943
Number of international emergency cases managed	586	5 981

Note

The data presented in the Health Benefit Tracker includes information on Discovery Health Medical Scheme and the 12 closed schemes administered by Discovery Health.