



Dear Pharmacist

## **Together with your support we can ensure LA Health members' benefits are utilised optimally**

It is important for us to ensure our medical scheme members have full risk cover for the treatment of their chronic conditions as far as possible. Members who use medicines on the medicine list (formulary) or equivalent alternative medicines within the set monthly amount (Chronic Drug Amount or CDA) have full cover. Consequently, the majority of LA Health members registered on the Chronic Illness Benefit have full cover for their medicines.

Due to changes in the LA Health formulary and the CDA, some of these members who are registered on the Chronic Illness Benefit, may experience out-of-pocket payments for their chronic medicines in future.

With your support we can help LA Health members maximise their Chronic Illness Benefit and reduce or avoid co-payments. We therefore want to refer our members to you – their dispensing pharmacist – to assist with generic replacement of appropriate formulary or better prices alternatives. To assist our members with this process before the implementation date of 1 October, we would be grateful if you start with generic replacement now already.

### **Changes to the LA Health formulary will take place on 1 October 2013**

We review the LA Health formulary twice a year. As we negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry to get the most favourable medicine prices for our members, we change the list and are able to add more medicines to our formulary. We also make changes to the Chronic Drug Amounts as the prices of medicines change. These changes will be implemented on 1 October 2013.

## How you can assist LA Health members

Members who continue to claim for medicine not on the medicine list after 1 October 2013 may attract a co-payment. We have advised our members to ask their pharmacist for assistance so they can avoid or minimise co-payments.

If a co-payment occurs and it is as result of the new formulary changes, it will be indicated on the claim by the following reason code:

*Reason code 381: Monthly amount exceeded.*

You can help members to avoid or minimise co-payments by dispensing equivalent generic medicines which:

- are listed on the Scheme's formulary, or
- fall within the monthly amount (CDA)

## Where to find the 2013 LA Health medicine list

You will find the 2013 CDL formulary at: <http://www.lahealth.co.za/schemes/lahealth/chronic-medicine>

We are committed to our responsibility of providing access to quality healthcare that is affordable and sustainable. We will therefore continue to look at ways to work with the providers of healthcare to meet this commitment, while securing the long-term future of the private healthcare industry. Thank you for working with us to achieve this commitment.

Kind regards

Suzanne van der Walt  
**Discovery Health**