

## What does the signing of the NHI Bill into Law mean for the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) members?

Dear Valued Member

### **Please do not cancel your medical aid.**

To ensure that you continue to access benefits as a member of GEMS in the same way you have been doing up to now, you are advised not to cancel your medical aid as the implementation of NHI will take place in phases over several years.

The signing of the NHI Bill into Law on 15 May 2024 by the President of the Republic of South Africa is a significant moment for the nation. We agree that this is a crucial step towards the country achieving the principles of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) recognises that there are challenges (e.g. court challenges) and complexities involved in implementing such an important and complex health financing system. However, as GEMS we are committed to working collaboratively with government (the employer), healthcare professionals, advocacy groups, and all stakeholders to overcome these challenges and ensure the success of the NHI for the benefit of all South African citizens.

We understand and are cognisant that this development is part of a phased in implementation process that will take a few years as explained by various government officials during the President's signing ceremony. As we embark on this transformative journey towards a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system, GEMS calls for collaboration, social solidarity, and leadership will, to realise the march towards universal health coverage.

How your Medical Scheme works has not changed and our commitment remains - Working towards a healthier you.

For more information, visit [www.gems.gov.za](http://www.gems.gov.za)

Kind regards,  
GEMS Communication Team