**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Medshield Launches 2026 product suite with 7.5% weighted average contribution increase**

**JOHANNESBURG, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 - Medshield Medical Scheme launched its benefit options and contributions for 2026, building on its Partner for Life offering with a strong member-centric theme of *Predict and Prevent*.**

**Medshield’s annual benefit limits and member contribution increases remain prudent and consistent. The 2026 benefit offering is marked by new innovative benefit additions, increases in benefit limits, the removal and reduction of out-of-pocket expenses, and a lower-than-average contribution adjustment. The 2026 benefits balance affordability, improve members' access to quality healthcare and confirm Medshield’s strong position as a viable and sustainable medical scheme, as evidenced by the latest upgraded AA with a stable outlook GCR rating.**

“Healthcare needs evolve as you progress through different stages of life, and understanding these changes is crucial for proactive and effective healthcare management. Besides supporting members and being the safety net for the unknown, we are also focussing on the importance of preventative healthcare. Through structured benefits, targeted education, and provider partnerships, we are ensuring that members have access to the kind of innovative healthcare that doesn't just treat illness, it helps avoid it altogether. Thus, predicting and preventing illness at every life stage," says Kevin Aron, Principal Officer of Medshield Medical Scheme.

None of us can choose every twist in the road; the choices we make for our health can shape the path. Despite their concern for their health, many people still wait for symptoms to appear before consulting a doctor. The reality is that by then, treatment becomes more complex, more expensive, and often involves longer-term interventions. Members are recognising that staying ahead of potential problems leads to better health outcomes and improved quality of life. In a healthcare environment where medical costs continue to rise, prediction and prevention are the best tools for staying healthy and keeping healthcare expenses under control.

“At Medshield, we know that safeguarding members' health is key to unlocking their future potential. That's why in 2026, Medshield has enhanced specific benefit limits on all options - refining our existing plans to serve your evolving needs better. Keeping the interests of our members in mind, we were also able to limit our average weighted contribution increase to **just 7.5%,** with 71.6% of Medshield’s membership enjoying a **7% increase**," announces Aron.

Some of the examples of the new benefits that have been added to Medshield’s 2026 benefit portfolio include:

* Embracing innovation, diabetes prevention has stepped up dramatically. **Diabetic retinal eye screening** offers members a vital solution for early detection and preventative care, whilst **Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM**) highlights proactive support in chronic care. Members up until the age of 18 now have access to continuous glucose monitoring to manage their diabetes with greater accuracy and ease. The Freestyle Libre system offers parents and caregivers real-time readings, instant alerts, and the peace of mind to act quickly and keep kids safe.
* Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and access to more frequent mammograms gives members the advantage of earlier detection, prompt treatment and better outcomes. Medshield now covers **mammogram screenings every 12** months once you **turn 30** on all options, because every year matters to predict and prevent possible breast cancer.
* From 2026, members can have an **eye test every year**, covered from risk. And the Scheme has substantially improved the annual limit for frames, lenses, or contacts, giving members more freedom of choice.
* As the world continues embracing technology to improve access to healthcare, Medshield members will enjoy additional **Virtual Care General Practitioner** benefits paid from risk across all options, in addition to the enhanced in-person GP consultation benefit.
* Our refined mental health benefit offers access to quality care, support and sustainable interventions that promotes long-term well-being.

“We are a stable organisation with a selection of affordable, member-centric benefit plans to cover members' individual needs as they navigate through life," states Aron. "This life-stage approach ensures that no matter where you are in your health journey, you have access to care that is relevant, age-appropriate, and timely. At Medshield we uphold transparency as a core value, ensuring that our members are consistently informed with clear, accurate, and accessible information – that is the Medshield difference.

"In 2026, we will continue providing the excellent benefit options and service that our members have come to expect and will support prediction and prevention to the benefit of our members. We know that not every health risk can be prevented – but many can be managed more effectively when identified early resulting in a better quality of life. Our focus remains simple: helping our members stay healthier, for longer - thereby ensuring that healthcare works better, not harder," concludes Aron.

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**EDITORS NOTES**

**FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS**

* Stone issues this release on behalf of the Medshield Medical Scheme.
* For media enquiries or interview requests, please contact Willem Eksteen, CEO of Stone or a media liaison member of the Stone team at media@stone.consulting / 011 447 0168
* Alternatively, contact Lilané Swanepoel at Medshield at 010 597 4982 / lilanes@medshield.co.za

**MORE ABOUT MEDSHIELD MEDICAL SCHEME**

* You never know when you or your family member/s may require medical care or treatment, and most importantly, whether you will have funds available to cover the costs. Medshield is a healthcare fund where all members contribute to the fund every month to cater for medical coverage should the need arise. Medshield is a healthcare fund where all members contribute towards the fund monthly to cater for medical cover should the need arise.
* Medshield has been in operation since 1968, making us one of the most experienced, knowledgeable, and reliable medical schemes in South Africa. Our extensive experience in the healthcare sector guides our understanding of our members’ needs. Our excellent cover and benefits and the best quality systems and services have resulted in our exceptional size and strength.
* Each of our options offers affordably priced benefits. We continuously review and improve the range of benefits in each option to bring you what you need.
* We partner with our stakeholders to enable access to sustainable and **affordable quality healthcare** through innovative products and benefits.
* Our impeccable reputation of prompt payments to hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and other medical caregivers guarantees approval from service providers when you present your Medshield membership card.
* Our extensive partner networks place us in the perfect position to offer exceptionally competitive rates to our members.
* Medshield is well-represented throughout all nine provinces and provides seamless access to service providers in your area. Our geographical spread provides convenience if it becomes necessary for you to have a personal discussion with one of our experienced consultants. We also have a streamlined online claim submission system and immediate contact centre assistance, making it easier to manage your membership and claims from the convenience of your home or office.
* Another distinguishing factor is our extensive range of additional benefits and services. These benefits and services have been designed to give members additional support when needed, for instance, in an emergency or when suffering from a chronic or life-threatening condition.
* Compared with other medical schemes, our trustworthiness, impeccable history, and exceptional service guarantee that we come out tops!
* As the interface between the Scheme and our members, Medshield staff are the backbone of our customer service delivery. The successful delivery of service depends entirely on the calibre of our people.