

RSSA: Reminder Important Communication - New Coding Structure Update - Discovery Health

**Sent to RSSA and Non-RSSA members*

Please be reminded to read the important communication below regarding the introduction of the revised RSSA coding structure by Discovery Health - effective January 2027.

We are scheduling an engagement with PMAs within the next 3 weeks and will shortly be in touch to set up a technical meeting with RSSA Members (to be held mid August) to discuss this further.

We welcome any questions in this regard in the interim via email to: admin@rssa.co.za.

Previous communication sent : 29th June

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION

**Sent to RSSA and Non-RSSA members*

Following our previous communications regarding the introduction of the revised RSSA five-digit coding structure, and further to discussions held with members over the past couple of years, we wish to provide an important update on the introduction of the new coding structure by Discovery Health.

As communicated previously, the revised coding structure has been developed to modernise radiology billing, introduce new and clinically relevant codes, and remove obsolete codes, while ensuring a global zero-impact outcome for the profession through the use of a single Rand Conversion Factor (RCF) by each administrator/scheme.

Discovery Health has indicated that it is ready to proceed with implementation and will be the first administrator in South Africa to implement the revised RSSA coding structure, effective 1 January 2027. Following extensive discussions to ensure legal compliance and changes in the schemes' Rules, lodged with the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS), from the implementation date, Discovery will only accept new accounts using the revised structure. New accounts using the old structure will be rejected. The new coding structure will apply to all medical schemes and insurance products currently administered by

Discovery Health, as well as any such schemes or products it may administer in future.

Discovery will be asking practices to confirm this with a short contract, but this is for their own internal records and non-signing will not act as an opt-out mechanism.

Documentation now released

1. Attached to this communication, please find:

- a. The latest version of the revised **RSSA coding structure**, including a crosswalk model, mapping current codes to the revised structure.
- b. The **presentation** as delivered at the Private Practice meeting held on the 5th of May 2026 is also attached for reference,

2. Please note that the 2026 cost-neutral Discovery Health RCF is **158.927** (including VAT), which has been **independently audited** by actuaries engaged by the RSSA to ensure a zero net impact across the Discovery Health ecosystem. Risk corridors are in place to ensure that, should the transition not be a zero-impact, that radiologists are not compromised.

These tools were discussed in detail at the Private Practice meeting and are now made available to members to support internal preparation and familiarisation.

Modelling and impact assessment

Members are encouraged to use the Discovery Health RCF in conjunction with the crosswalk model to model the expected impact on their individual practices.

Discovery Health Implementation date and billing rules

Members are reminded of the agreed implementation principles:

- The revised coding structure will apply to all Discovery accounts with a date of service on or after 1 January 2027
- Discovery Health will assess accounts based strictly on date of service, not submission date
- Any accounts with a date of service before 1 January 2027 must continue to be submitted using the existing (old) coding structure
- Practices should familiarise themselves with:
 - New codes being introduced
 - Existing codes that will be discontinued, as reflected in the crosswalk model

Practices must ensure that their billing and clinical systems support the parallel use of both the existing and new coding structures, with automatic or manual selection of the new coding structure for Discovery Health patients from 1 January 2027 onward. These principles are important to avoid rejected or misprocessed claims during the transition period.

Practice readiness and engagement with PMA providers

Effective preparation will require active and early engagement with practice management administrators (PMAs), including RIS and billing system providers.

Practices are strongly encouraged to engage their PMAs now and obtain clear answers to the following key questions:

- Can your systems support the parallel running of the existing and revised coding structures?
- How will the switch between coding structures be managed at a patient and scheme level (specifically for Discovery Health)?
- What operational changes or staff training will be required to support this transition?
- Are there any system dependencies or timelines that practices need to be aware of ahead of 1 January 2027?

Practices should also ensure that all related systems, including PACS, AI, voice recognition, electronic ordering systems, and any other modules that utilise tariff codes, are informed of the introduction of the revised coding structure and are operationally ready from a systems perspective. Where PMA providers require clarification on the revised RSSA coding structure or its implementation principles, they are welcome and encouraged to engage directly with the RSSA.

Training and ongoing communication

Formal training and implementation sessions for RSSA Members will be communicated in due course. These sessions will focus on practical use of the new coding structure, coding logic, and operational considerations. We strongly encourage practice administration staff and coding personnel to attend.

The RSSA will continue to engage with other schemes and administrators on implementation and will keep members informed of further developments. Additional guidance, training dates and support material will be circulated as they become available.

Should you have queries in the interim, we encourage discussion via established RSSA private practice channels, either on WhatsApp or admin@rssa.co.za.

RSSA members will have access to the training sessions and focused assistance. If you are receiving this as one of the small number of non-members in private practice, we encourage you to join by contacting admin@rssa.co.za.

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