

GP REFERRAL

Bonitas
Medical Aid for South Africa

2025

There is a growing trend of fragmented care, where a number of our beneficiaries are receiving duplicate treatment from multiple doctors and providers. This leads to poor patient experience and unsatisfactory outcomes. The GP referral process ensures that our members receive appropriate and effective care. It also helps to ensure that their benefits last longer by avoiding duplication of tests and consultations with specialists for concerns that can be handled by a GP.

In an effort to enhance the coordination of care, members are required to obtain a referral from their GP before consulting with certain specialists. Claims for specialist consultations without a valid referral number from a GP have been and will continue to be rejected (for member's own account).

Bonitas Medical Fund approved the following exceptions for all options (excluding BonCap, BonStart and BonStart Plus) where the member doesn't have to obtain a specialist referral:

- Two gynaecologist consultations or visits per year for female beneficiaries
- Maternity consultations
- Paediatrician consultations for children under the age of two
- Consultations with Oncologists and Haematologists
- Ophthalmology consultations
- Specialist to specialist referral
- Psychologist to Psychiatrist referral
- Follow up visits with a treating specialist within 8 weeks of discharge from hospital for the same condition

HOW TO REQUEST A SPECIALIST REFERRAL AUTHORISATION



All options except for BonCap

Your GP can contact the Bonitas Healthcare Professional call centre and request an authorisation for you or they can use the online facility. If your GP refuses to obtain a specialist referral authorisation on your behalf, you must obtain a referral letter from the GP stating which specialist you are required to visit. You can then call the call centre on 0860 002 108 and an agent will assist you in obtaining a referral number.

Specialist referral authorisations are valid for 6 months per practice type.

On BonStart and BonStart Plus if you do not obtain a referral from a Network GP for a specialist consultation, it will not be covered.

Please note: Specialist referral authorisation does not guarantee payment of the consultation. Your claim will be processed subject to the available benefits.

For members on BonCap

Your Network GP must complete a BonCap Specialist Referral form which must be emailed to BonCapSpecialistReferrals@pha.co.za.

Specialist referrals are only approved upon receipt of a valid specialist referral form which must be signed by the Referring Network GP, except for a Gynaecologist.

Specialist referral authorisations are valid for 3 months for the practice authorised. If you do not obtain a referral from a Network GP for a specialist consultation, it will not be covered.

Please note: A specialist referral authorisation does not guarantee payment of the consultation. Your claim will be processed subject to the available benefits.