

Scheme rate hikes average 9%

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The average increase in medical scheme contributions among the open schemes that have announced their rates for next year is 9.01 percent, Alexander Forbes Health says.

Average contribution increases for 2013 announced recently are: Bonitas (9.9 percent), Bestmed (8.99 percent), Hosmed (7.2 percent), LA Health (9.9 percent) Liberty (11 percent), Makoti (four or nine percent), Medihelp (11.2 percent), Resolution Health (10.8 percent), and Spectramed (9.4 percent). Two smaller schemes have announced increases that are much lower than the average: Compcare's rates will rise by 6.9 percent and Genesis's by 4.95 percent.

Fedhealth was the first large open scheme to announce an increase . 7.9 percent . for 2013.

Medshield followed by raising its rates by 7.5 percent; then came Momentum Health (7.9 percent), Discovery Health (10.9 percent), Profmed (8.59 percent), Pharos (10.8 percent) and Topmed (9.47 percent).