



Fedhealth Oncology Innovative Medicine Programme for **maxima PLUS**

The costs associated with treating cancer are rising as more novel and innovative therapies enter the local market. While these medical advances are welcomed – many offering improved clinical outcomes – they often come at a high cost. Combined with the increasing prevalence of cancer, this places significant pressure on all sectors of the healthcare system, including medical scheme funders. This highlights the need to balance access to innovative treatment options with long-term financial sustainability.

To help address this, Fedhealth has introduced the Oncology Innovative Medicine Co-funding Programme for **maxima PLUS** members.

The Programme aims to:



Improve access to high-cost innovative therapies for eligible members



Extend the Oncology Specialised Drug Benefit (SDB) sublimit to reduce treatment-related shortfalls and out-of-pocket expenses once benefits are exceeded



Allow **maxima PLUS** members to access protocols beyond standard and enhanced protocols



Provide additional support for many high-cost treatments through third-party cover (for example, Gap cover)

This Programme offers **maxima PLUS** members improved access to a defined list of high-cost, innovative treatments for certain common types of cancer. These treatments may previously have been limited or excluded due to their high cost and funding limitations.

Which cancers are covered?

The Programme currently covers five types of cancer:



Breast cancer



Prostate cancer



Colorectal cancer



Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)



Melanoma

Eligible members on **maxima PLUS** with one of these cancers will have improved access to a pre-defined list of high-cost, innovative therapies, subject to meeting clinical entry criteria and the availability of an Oncology SDB. The Programme does not cover all high-cost innovative drugs. For a full list of the included drugs and covered indications, please speak to your treating doctor or Fedhealth Oncology (see contact details below).

How are specialised drugs in this Programme funded?

These specialised medicines are partially funded from the member's Oncology Specialised Drug/Medicine Benefit (SDB) at 70% from day one of authorisation. The remaining 30% is payable by the member directly or through an alternative third-party payment arrangement (for example, Gap cover, subject to Gap cover policy criteria).

On maxima PLUS, the specialised drug benefit is **R402 500 per family per year**.

Access criteria

The following criteria apply:

1. The patient must be a registered Fedhealth member on **maxima PLUS**;
2. The member must have available benefits on their Oncology SDB;
3. The medicine must be included in the Programme, and the member must meet the pre-defined diagnosis and clinical setting criteria. Each funding request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis; and
4. Where authorised, the medicine will be approved for partial funding at 70% from the date of authorisation (day one). Once the Oncology SDB is depleted, the member will be liable for the full cost of therapy for the remainder of the benefit year.

Additional information and option upgrades

Details of the supported medicines were communicated to all registered medical and radiation oncologists in April 2025. Please discuss potential treatments and eligibility for supported innovative therapies with your treating provider.

Remember that you can upgrade within 30 days of a life-changing event:

Fedhealth supports cancer patients in their time of need, and diagnosed members are encouraged to register on the Fedhealth Oncology Programme by calling **0860 100 572**. The Scheme offers all members the opportunity to change to a higher option within 30 days of a life-changing event or diagnosis (not available on **myFED**). This helps ensure that members with cancer can access the medication they need to remain economically active, along with the support required to manage this stressful diagnosis.

If you have any questions, please contact the Fedhealth Oncology Programme on **0860 100 572**, Mondays to Fridays, between 08:30 and 17:00, or send an email to cancerinfo@fedhealth.co.za.