What makes the Society great

This is why we believe the Society has the edge over commercial medical schemes – read more about these on the back page!

We're not profit-driven - no commissions or broker fees are paid.

Our annual contribution increases are competitive.

Our administration costs are competitive and not entirely funded from contributions.

The Society is very stable and financially sound.

We offer individual cover for major medical events and day-to-day expenses.

'Our own people' manage the Society and provide personalised customer care and support.

We are committed to good corporate governance.

053 807 3111 | benefitpost@dbbs.co.za | www.dbbs.co.za

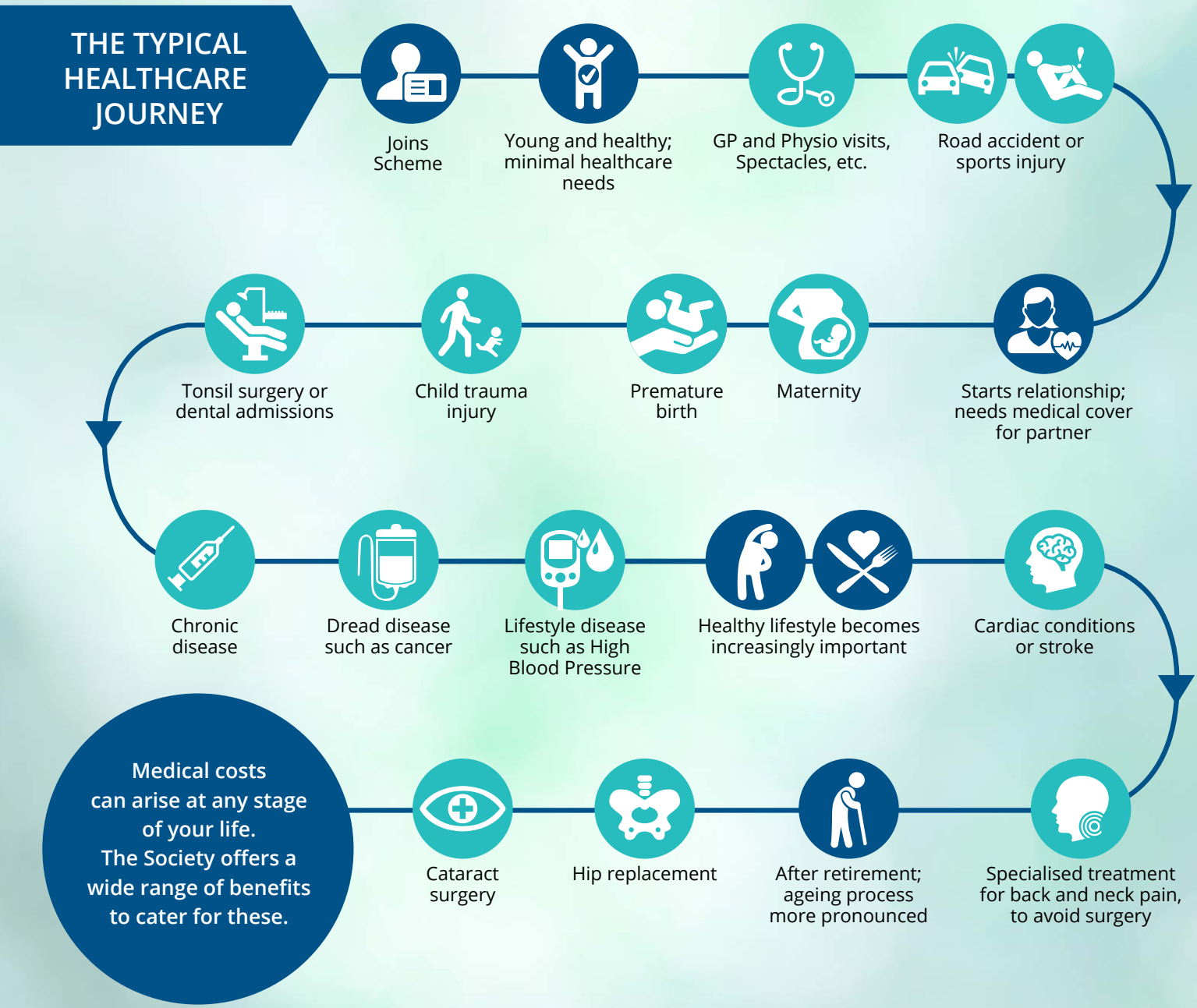
There for you

Many people regard their medical scheme mainly as a way to help cover visits to the doctor or dentist, or to fund a new pair of spectacles. The monthly contributions then seem disproportionately high, and many medical scheme members (whatever scheme they belong to) complain that they are not getting value for money.

The first thing to understand is that a medical scheme is MAINLY there to help you when things go wrong. It's comparable to your short-term insurance. You may go many years without claiming for anything, but when you're burgled, it's great to be able to claim for everything you've insured.

Likewise, members who are in accidents, develop cancer or need life-saving procedures are usually extremely relieved that they have a medical scheme to fall back on. And because the costs involved in these major medical events are often very high, this is where the benefit amounts are typically the highest, and where the Society spends most of its money.

During a typical member's lifetime, there will be many occasions where the Society's benefits would be extremely valuable. The "journey" below shows different life stages, and the type of healthcare challenges a member may face.



Your benefits in a nutshell

The Society offers a wide range of benefits to its members. These can be categorised as follows:

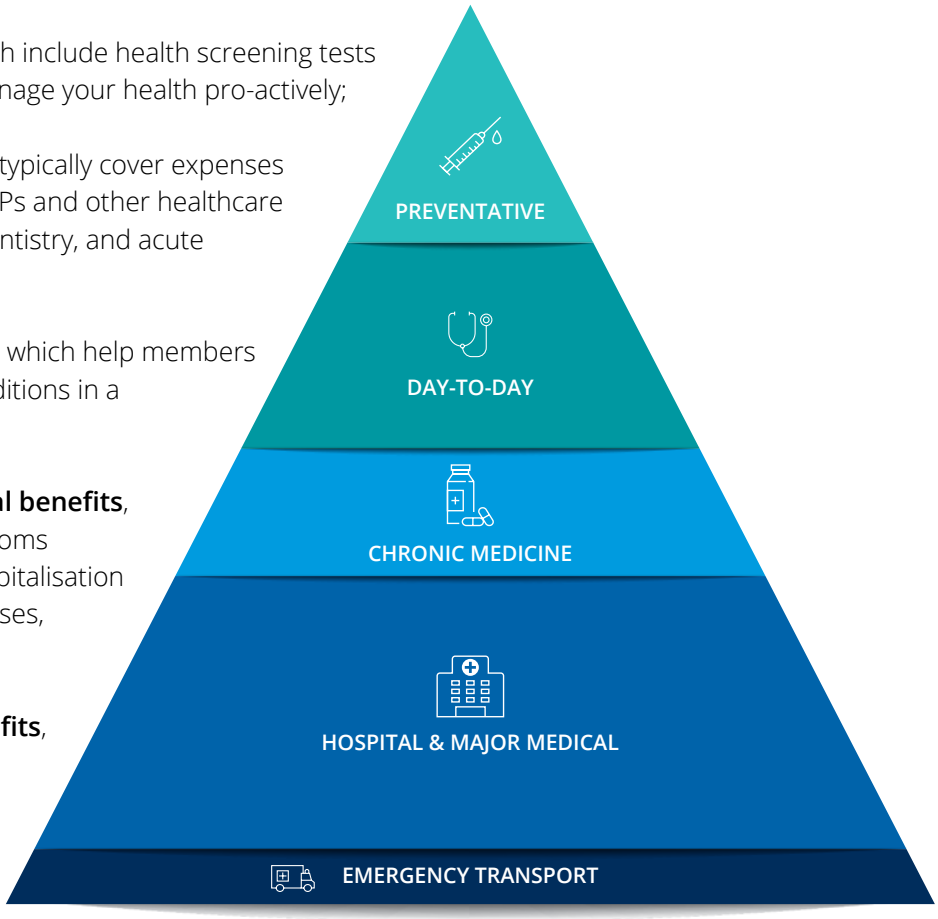
Preventative benefits, which include health screening tests and vaccines to help you manage your health pro-actively;

Day-to-day benefits, which typically cover expenses such as consultations with GPs and other healthcare professionals, optometry, dentistry, and acute medicine;

Chronic medicine benefits, which help members manage certain chronic conditions in a cost-effective way;

Hospital and major medical benefits, which cover from small in-rooms procedures to high-cost hospitalisation and treatment for trauma cases, oncology and more; and

Emergency transport benefits, to ensure that you and your beneficiaries can get emergency medical care when you urgently need it.



What makes the Society great

NOT PROFIT-DRIVEN

As a not-for-profit, self-administered restricted medical scheme for De Beers' employees and pensioners, the Society has only one focus – to provide members with good value for money with no profit incentive. In the end, we as members benefit in that almost 100% of our contributions are available to provide our members with medical benefits. In contrast, open medical schemes and medical schemes that are not self-administered have administrators that must show a profit from their operations. Open medical schemes are also marketed by brokers who earn significant ongoing commissions from these schemes, which are also funded from member contributions.

COMPETITIVE CONTRIBUTION INCREASES AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

The Society's average annual contribution increase over the past five years has been consistently lower than the average industry increase. The Society's administration cost also compares favourably to that of the industry, and the Society's level of reserves allows it to fund most of its administration costs from investment income. This means that almost 100% of member contributions is used to pay for medical benefits (claims) on behalf of our members, compared to other schemes, where this rate is around 90%.

VERY STABLE AND FINANCIALLY SOUND

The Society's accumulated funds (reserves) as a percentage (179% as at 30 June 2021) of annual contributions is much higher than the industry average (36% for all schemes and 29% for open schemes), as well as the minimum required by law (25%). This provides significant protection to the Society against unpredictably high claims and unforeseen pandemics such as Covid-19. The added benefit of the significant size of the Society's reserves is that, unlike some open schemes that are close to or below the reserve level of 25% required by law, the Society does not have to access member contributions or increase such contributions to achieve and maintain the 25% reserve level required by law.

INDIVIDUAL COVER FOR MAJOR MEDICAL EVENTS AND DAY-TO-DAY EXPENSES

The Society undertakes liability on behalf of members in return for contributions, to provide you with medical cover on a day-to-day basis and – importantly – when you need it most. Hospitalisation benefits in network hospitals are reimbursed at 100%. For additional peace of mind, the Society offers a host of very competitive out-of-hospital day-to-day benefits. Each benefit has its own limit and each beneficiary has access to his or her own set of individual benefits, preventing one family member depleting all the benefits available.

'OUR PEOPLE' - MANAGING THE SOCIETY

The Society's Board of Trustees (which includes Trustees elected by you as members) is made up of individuals who are committed to serve the Society and its members in a professional and efficient manner. The Trustees are supported by a management and administration team based in Kimberley, as well as Board Committees and professional advisers who are industry leaders in their respective fields. Society staff members are committed to superior levels of personalised service to all members and stakeholders. They understand our members and their needs (often knowing members by name) and are therefore ideally placed to provide unparalleled levels of personal service.

COMMITTED TO CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Society is committed to the highest levels of corporate governance. The Board of Trustees maintains a firm focus on upholding high standards of corporate governance and it proactively monitors and manages the risks and challenges that the Society faces. The Society also obtains regular assurance from internal and external auditors, as well as other assurance providers, regarding the efficiency of its governance structures and risk-management functions.

SIGNAL MODEL ANALYSIS – VALUE FOR MONEY

The Insight Actuaries and Consultants' Signal Model, which measures the benefit richness of medical schemes and the various options offered to determine the value for money, indicates that the Society's current offering provides a high level of cover (93.5%). This analysis indicates that the Society offers similar benefits to the average open medical schemes at a lower average contribution than the market. Consequently, the Society offers beneficiaries better than average value for money compared to the industry average for open medical schemes.