



HOW CAN I VOLUNTARILY BUY NHI OR DEPOSIT INTO AN MSA?

Republic of Palau
Social Security Administration



HOW TO VOLUNTARILY PURCHASE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI)

How much do I have to pay?

The cost to voluntarily purchase NHI is \$29.25/quarter.

When do I have to pay?

NHI must be paid quarterly. To be covered in April 2011, you must begin making quarterly payments in January 2011.

The following deadlines apply:

January 31, April 30, July 31, October 31

When will I be able to use the benefits?

If you begin making quarterly payments in January 2011 you will be able to benefit from NHI beginning April 1, 2011.

If you miss the first payment in January 2011, you can begin making quarterly payments in April 2011. You will then be covered beginning July 1, 2011.

What can I use my NHI for?

- Inpatient medical treatment at Belau National Hospital
- Approved off-island medical referrals
- Medical transportation for approved off-island referrals

Who else can benefit if I voluntarily purchase NHI?

Your spouse and dependent children under 18 (or under 22, if still in school) will be covered under your insurance.

What happens if I stop making payments?

Your NHI can only cover you and your dependents for the quarters of coverage that you purchased.

HOW TO VOLUNTARILY DEPOSIT INTO A MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT (MSA)

How much do I have to pay?

The minimum deposit required is \$10.00. You can choose to pay any amount over \$10.00.

When do I have to pay?

Deposits made to a medical savings account can be made at any time beginning January 2011.

When will I be able to use the benefits?

When you begin making deposits in January 2011, you will be able to use your MSA beginning April 1, 2011. Any deposits made after April 1, 2011 will be available for you to use five (5) working days after the deposit.

What can I use my MSA for?

- Outpatient treatment at Belau National Hospital and participating clinics
- Prescription medication
- Premiums for private health insurance

Who else can benefit if I voluntarily deposit into my MSA?

Two groups of people will be able to use funds in your MSA:

- 1) Dependents: Includes your spouse, and dependent children under 18 (or under 22, if still in school)
- 2) Designated beneficiaries: Includes family members related to you by blood or marriage.

What happens if I stop making deposits?

Your MSA is a savings account, so you can continue to use your MSA as long as you have funds. There is no penalty or interest if your funds reach a zero balance.

CONTACT US

The Medical Savings Account and National Health Insurance established under the HCF is just the beginning of an improved, comprehensive healthcare financing system. It is the **FIRST STEP** in addressing many of Palau's healthcare financing concerns. If you have any questions or suggestions about the program, please feel free to contact the Social Security Administration:



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