

THE PATHCARE NEWS

PATHCARE MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY HELPDESK

Dear colleagues

As you likely already know, Discovery Health has created a benefit called the Precision Medicine Benefit. From this benefit they will cover molecular testing as well as a certain targeted therapies. This benefit is separate from the usual oncology benefit.

Discovery Health uses this benefit to pay for NGS analysis done on non-small cell lung cancer and colorectal cancer. They plan on expanding this to other cancer types in the future.

All Discovery Health plans except KeyCare qualify. Please note that this process also applies to medical schemes administered by Discovery, such as Bankmed and Remedi.

PRE-AUTHORISATION IS MANDATORY FOR NGS

The oncologist is required to apply to Discovery Health for pre-authorisation, prior to requesting NGS testing on NSCLC and colorectal cancer.

NGS testing on cancers other than NSLC and colorectal cancer also requires pre- authorisation, and is dealt with by Discovery Health on a case-by-case basis.

Discovery Health will still accept and pay for single gene PCR testing (EGFR, KRAS & NRAS, BRAF) however, they would like to encourage oncologists to request NGS from the start as it is more comprehensive and cheaper overall. Single gene testing will not require pre- authorisation, however, once single gene testing has been requested and paid for it will be unlikely that further testing (NGS or other molecular tests) will be covered.

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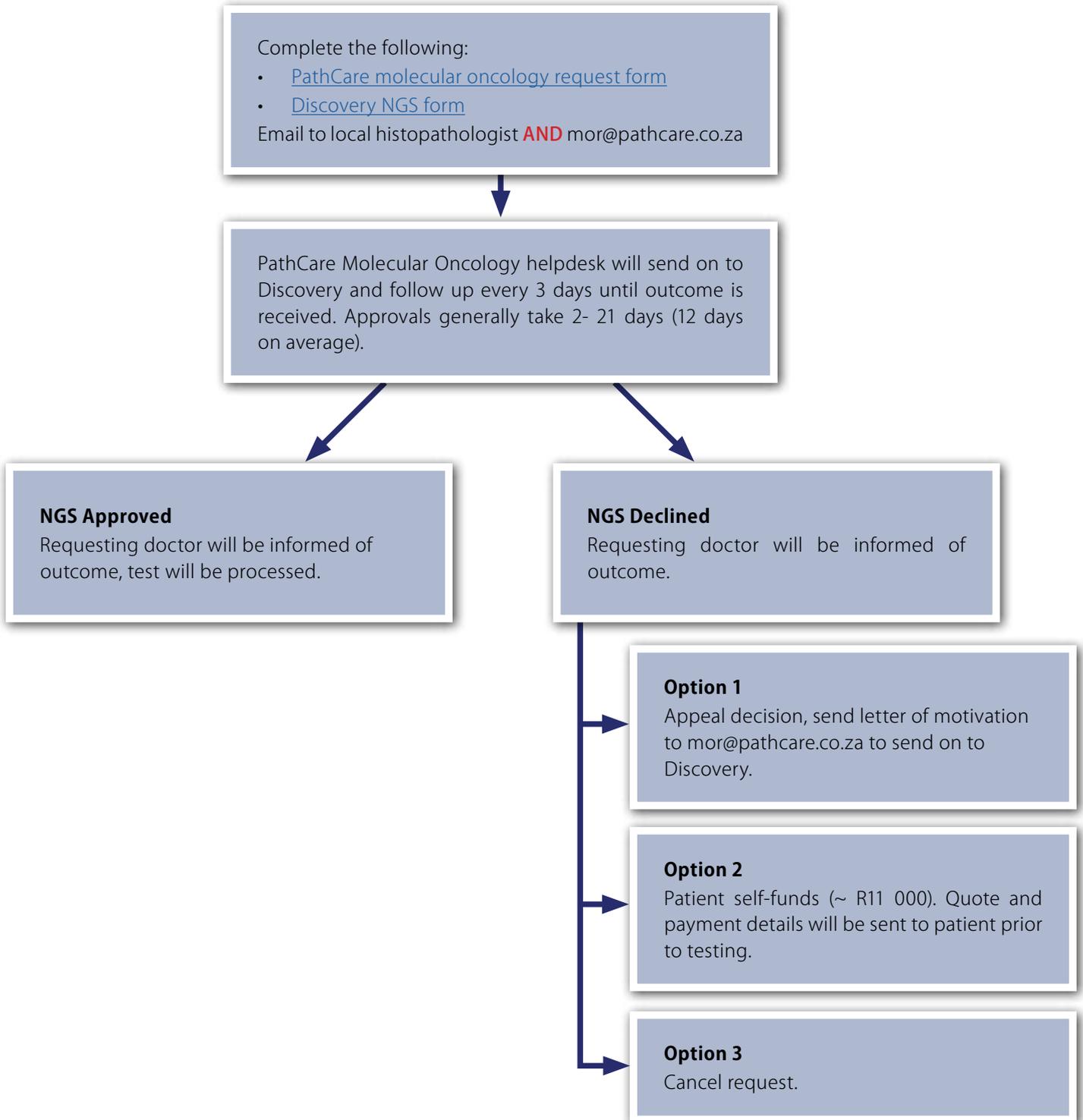
In order to assist in the NGS application process, PathCare has instated a dedicated Molecular Oncology helpdesk. The helpdesk is manned by individuals who assist in sending the applications to Discovery, and who follow up with Discovery on a regular basis until the outcome is received. Please refer to the flow diagram on the following page to familiarize yourself with the request process.

Molecular oncology helpdesk contact details:

Email: mor@pathcare.co.za or molecularoncologyrequests@pathcare.co.za

Phone: 021 596 3597

Oncomine Focus requests for Discovery patients (Solid tumour NGS, 52 genes)



Note: Patients have the option of paying upfront for the test whilst awaiting feedback from Discovery. If the test is approved by Discovery, they will be reimbursed. Contact mor@pathcare.co.za for more info.