Explanatory Note No. 24
concerning
Non-compulsory Medical Benefits

The German Theatrical Pension Fund (VddB) may grant supplementary medical benefits on certain treatments (c.f. No. 2) upon request* provided the cost of treatment is not reimbursed by any other body. Supplementary benefits are not offset against future benefits.

1. Who is eligible to non-compulsory medical benefits?

Non-compulsory medical benefits may only be granted to insured parties. Dependent family members are not entitled to non-compulsory medical benefits. The party insured must be either compulsorily, non-compulsorily or continuously insured at the time of treatment and must have been insured for at least 36 paid-up months prior to treatment. Persons insured on a non-contributory basis have no entitlement to non-compulsory medical benefits.

Non-compulsory medical benefits are not granted in the following cases:

- Occupational accidents and illnesses,
- you already receive old-age pension,
- if it becomes obvious upon processing of the application that an event giving rise to a claim has or will occur(red) within 2 years from completion of treatment or provision of aid or the insurance relationship will or has ended,
- usually in case of repeated treatments for the same reason before a period of three years has expired and
- in case the non-reimbursable cost amounts to less than 150 Euro.

A recipient of a pension for professional or occupational disability may be granted non-compulsory medical benefits before reaching his/her retirement age provided the treatment is likely to restore his/her earning capacity.

Non-compulsory medical benefits may be reclaimed if the insurance relationship ends within 6 months of granting.

2. What costs qualify for non-compulsory medical benefits?

2.1. Artificial Dentition

Non-compulsory medical benefits are granted for:

- Prostheses and implants
- Dental crowns and
- Three-dimensional dental inlays in case of performing stage artists

including related general dental and surgical services.

Prophylactic, other conserving measures (dental treatment), services related to diseases of oral mucosa and paradentium, orthodontic and functional analytical and therapeutic services are not subject to non-compulsory medical benefits.

* Application forms are available on the Internet site [www.buehnenversorgung.de](http://www.buehnenversorgung.de) under “Downloadcenter → Nebenleistungen → Heilkostenzuschüsse”.

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2.2. Outpatient and Spa Treatments

Non-compulsory medical benefits may be granted on medical or therapeutic treatments for purposeful occupational rehabilitation. Benefits may only be granted for approved medical therapies i.e. therapies that are considered refundable by private health insurance companies, such as acupuncture, Alexander’s method, (extracorporeal) shockwave lithotripsy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, hearing therapy or other orthopaedic therapies. Not reimbursable are general preventive measures or measures to improve health and performance.

Non-compulsory medical benefits are only granted on inpatient treatments in a facility (e.g. sanatorium) or curative centre if the intended outcome cannot be achieved by outpatient treatment.

Before treatment is started a medical certificate on its professional necessity and a cost estimate is to be submitted. The Fund is entitled to request an additional expert opinion at its own expense.

Non-compulsory medical benefits are not granted:

- In case of acute diseases
- On inpatient treatments in hospitals and infirmaries or surgical interventions including subsequent rehabilitation
- In cases where the intended treatment outcome can be achieved by a holiday
- On treatments reimbursed by other bodies (e.g. German Federal Insurance Office for Salaried Employees) subject to social security legislation less deductible.

Eligible maximum amounts include adequate costs for

- Treatment including physicians treatment honorariums up to the 3.5-fold of the billing rate subject to the German Scale of Charges for Physicians (GOÄ).
- Medicines, spa applications, health resort tax
- Accommodation or daily rates up to 75 Euro per day in case of a necessary inpatient treatment in a facility (sanatorium) or health resort and
- Certificates on the professional necessity of treatment issued by a medical examiner.

2.3. Other Aids

Eligible to non-compulsory medical benefits are contact lenses or hearing aids for performing stage artists. The aid must be expedient and appropriate in function. The professional necessity is to be proven by a medical certificate. Special glasses are subject to benefits only if the exclusive professional necessity is confirmed by a physician. The VddB is entitled to request additional medical examinations at its own expense.

Eligible maximum amounts include initial costs. In case of glasses the cost of the lenses plus a maximum amount of Euro 50 for the frame is generally reimbursable. Glasses for the computer are not reimbursable.
2.4. **Cosmetic operations and laser interventions improving the visual acuity of performing stage artists**

In individual cases, the cost of cosmetic operations may be eligible to non-compulsory medical benefits provided the operation is necessary for the execution of the profession.

A laser eye intervention to improve visual acuity in performing stage artists may be subject to non-compulsory medical benefits if intolerability of contact lenses is confirmed by a physician. The VdDB is entitled to request additional medical examinations at its own expense.

Persons who do not perform on stage are not entitled to non-compulsory medical benefits for cosmetic operations or laser eye interventions.

3. **What documents need to be submitted?**

Upon completion of the treatment the itemized bills supplemented by the notice of approval or denial of the health insurance company, body or other authority are to be submitted to the Fund.

In case of curative treatments the application for non-compulsory medical benefits must be submitted prior to the curative treatment, in other cases within one year after completion of treatment or upon receipt of the notice from the statutory pension insurance system.

In case of personal and insurance-related entitlement and in cases where a particularly costly artificial dentition is required for professional reasons, the statutory pension insurance system will pay non-compulsory benefits on artificial dentitions for performing singers, members of choirs, actors and prompters. For that reason members of these professions should also file an application with the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund, 10704 Berlin within 6 months upon fitting of the artificial dentition. To what extent this might have an unfavourable effect on the statutory insurance has to be checked by the insured person individually. If no benefit has been claimed from the statutory pension system the VdDB will evaluate the respective amount and reduce their benefit accordingly.

4. **What amounts are granted?**

In individual cases and in combination with previously granted benefits, non-compulsory medical benefits are not to exceed 10 % of contributions paid until the end of the last fiscal year prior to treatment.

In case the opportunity of receiving benefits, allowances and grants etc. from other bodies is not exploited, the benefits paid by the VdDB are reduced by the same amount. This also applies in case benefits are denied by another body due to delayed application.