

December 3, 2013

Clarification of the Porgera Remediation Framework

Barrick and the Porgera Joint Venture recently modified the Porgera Remediation Framework. As stated in the documentation governing the program, which has been publicly available through Barrick's website since the inception of the project, there are two components to the remediation framework. There is an individual remediation program, which includes packages of support, reparations, and other remediation elements for individual claimants. As part of the individual remediation program, packages may include certain specialized health benefits that are not otherwise available in the community. The second component of the remediation framework is a community remediation program, which consists of a suite of community-level initiatives designed to improve the treatment of and support for women who have been the victims of violence in the community generally.

In implementing the program, there has been some confusion regarding eligibility for health care benefits. To eliminate this confusion, Barrick has proposed refinements to the individual claims program to clarify what medical and counseling services can be made available to claimants, and the methods by which those services are available.

These amendments are as follows:

1. It will be made clear to all existing eligible claimants (irrespective of whether they have signed remediation agreements or not) that they may register for an immediate medical exam on entering the program, should they feel they require it;
2. It will be made clear to all existing eligible claimants (irrespective of whether they have signed remediation agreements or not) that the basic medical and counselling services discussed as part of their remedy dialogue will be provided free of charge, and without agreeing to resolve their grievance;
3. It will be made clear to claimants who have already signed agreements that they may, if they wish, withdraw from their agreements and retain the medical benefits identified therein, or request that the agreement be re-drafted;
4. Any eligible claimant requiring immediate access to urgent medical services or counselling services relating to harm they may have suffered during an alleged sexual assault can indicate this to the complaints assessment team (CAT) managing the claims process. The team will be authorized to facilitate referrals to the local hospital for an initial medical assessment, or to arrange for service providers to meet counselling needs. Further, if the health practitioners who undertake those initial services indicate that further immediate and urgent services are required, this can be discussed with the CAT and addressed prior to any further consideration of the individual claim in question.

The public documents outlining the remediation framework and related procedures are being updated to reflect these amendments, and will be available shortly.

Barrick has always stated that it would consider further amendments and improvements to the implementation of the Remediation Framework where practical changes are proposed.