



PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW

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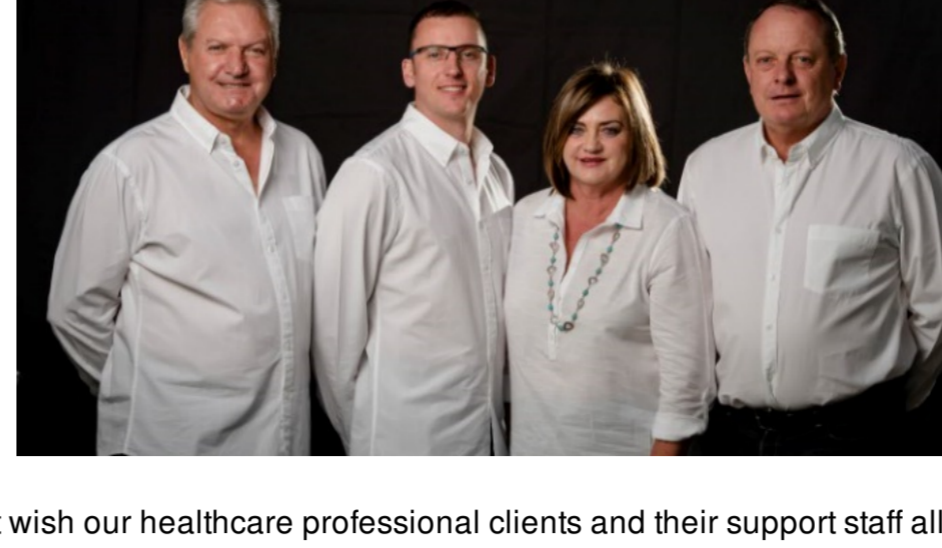
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Private Practice Review

January 2019

HealthMan Directors:

From left:
Ernst Ackermann,
Peet Kotze,
Mardi Roos and
Casper Venter (MD)



HealthMan staff and management wish our healthcare professional clients and their support staff all the best for 2019. We trust that the year will bring continued prosperity and we hope that practices will be able to focus on patient care, without the burden of political and administrative issues in the industry.

2018 proved to be an exciting one as far as industry progression was concerned. After an initial lull in activity, the NHI Draft Bill, Medical Schemes Amendment Bill and the Health Market Inquiry provisional report were all published within a short period of time for public comment. This prompted a flurry of activity from all industry stakeholders in order to get responses submitted prior to the due dates.

There is also a certain measure of skepticism whether submissions on the NHI Bill and Medical Schemes Amendment Bill will be sufficiently considered, as a further NHI Fund Bill was presented to cabinet shortly after the closing period for comments. A leaked letter from Treasury in November confirmed that Treasury itself had similar concerns with the public consultation process. A leaked version of a new NHI Bill was dated only 14 days after the response submission closing date, seemingly not having incorporated any of the public proposals or concerns. Once the Bill is passed into Law, it will become open for legal challenge for the first time, and such procedural flaws could be utilised by opponents of the proposed single payer NHI system.



HMI

The final Health Market Inquiry report has been postponed to 29 March 2019, in light of consideration of the stakeholder submissions on the interim report. The Competition Commission does not want to lay itself bare to similar legal challenges based on procedural grounds.

The President of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) has already indicated an oral objection to some of the HMI findings, which instructed that multidisciplinary practices and Alternative Reimbursement Models (ARMs) should be allowed by HPCSA rules.

Council for Medical Schemes

The Council for Medical Schemes is still busy with the PMB review process, which started in 2016. An outline of the process is now finally starting to materialise. The involved nature of the review and technical complexity thereof is hampering the progress as the CMS struggles to address the practical issues raised by stakeholders.

Medical schemes, are experiencing ongoing challenges with fraud, waste and abuse, and scheme administrators are stepping up investigations into healthcare professionals, by using ever more sophisticated profiling tools.

HealthMan does not condone fraud, waste and abuse and encourages practitioners to bill ethically and to raise coding related queries with the relevant management groups and societies, if any uncertainty exists regarding the interpretation of codes.

SAPPF is also now employing an internal coding consultant to provide ongoing coding support to member societies. HealthMan is always available to assist members with forensic investigations by schemes.

2019 Designated payment arrangement updates

You will find the 2019 designated payment arrangement updates outlined in this newsletter for your convenience, along with scheme rate increases for the current year, news of amalgamations, benefit option changes and general changes. Do take note of these changes, as especially the implementation of Hospital Networks by many schemes can have a large impact on admitting practitioners. It is important to remember that your patients remain responsible for their Healthcare Funding choices.

If patients choose a network option, which comes at a monthly cost saving, they will have co-payments for using out-of-network hospital facilities. Patients should take some responsibility for their funding choices, which will impact on their available treatment options.

Kind regards, The HealthMan Team, 11 January 2019

[Read more in the attachment: HealthMan New Year Newsletter](#)

News on Government

R196-m has been spent on Healthcare Market Inquiry



The Competition Commission's Healthcare Market Inquiry, conducted over four years to probe the state of competition in the private healthcare market, has cost R196-m according to Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel.

The final report is expected to be published in March 2019. Public hearings took place in 2016, and the commission received written reports and feedback from 175 stakeholders from hospital groups, doctor groups, medical aid schemes and other stakeholders.

Doctors head to court to get a cure for placement woes



Foreign-trained medical doctors battling for internship placements are heading to court, claiming they are being sidelined. The Health Department, however, denies there are students who have not been placed.

The Legal Resources Centre's (LRC) Durban regional office has represented about 300 doctors in 2018. This year, the centre is representing 105 more on the same issue, and is hopeful of winning the case.

The South African Medical Association (SAMA) said it was concerned by the "hurdle" faced by junior doctors.

According to SAMA's database, there are 22 doctors awaiting placement in total – 15 community service doctors and 7 interns. Two of them are foreign-trained.

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi announced earlier that by 1 January his department will have placed 9 797 newly qualified health professionals in internship and community service posts. Of these, 1 883 were medical interns.

New Medical School in the pipeline

The recruitment of students for a medical school at the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in Port Elizabeth will start soon, with the first batch expected to start classes in January 2020, according to NMU vice-chancellor Dr Sibongile Mutwa. The medical school would fall under the university's health science faculty and would be housed at their Missionville campus near Zwide township, Port Elizabeth.

Special News

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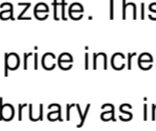
Pharmaceutical industry welcomes 3,78% SEP increase



Pharmaceutical companies have welcomed the 3.78% annual increase in the single exit price (SEP) for medicine for 2019, saying it will bring welcome relief to the industry that had been badly hit by the 2018 1.2% SEP increase and a worsening rand.

Spokesperson of the Pharmaceutical Task Team (PTT), Stavros Nicolaou says they are also encouraged by the Department of Health' decision to release the notice of the new increase on its website before it was published in the Government Gazette. This will allow pharmaceutical companies to implement the price increase within the next three to four weeks instead of only at the end of February as in previous years, giving them the opportunity to benefit from the increase sooner.

Read more by clicking on the button below



News on Medical Aids

Circulars: Council for Medical Schemes



The following Circulars were published by the CMS in December 2018. Visit www.medicalschemes.co.za for more info.

58 of 2018 Review of breast cancer PMB definition guidelines	62 of 2010 Prescribed auditor report templates
59 of 2018 Benefit definition submissions for Schizophrenia, Bipolar Mood Disorder and Mental Health emergencies	63 of 2018 IRBA Medical Scheme Auditing Guide published
60 of 2018 Administrators and Managed Care Organisations Accredited by the Council EXCO	64 of 2018 Entry and verification criteria for identifying beneficiaries with risk factors in medical schemes
61 of 2010 Spectramed Medical Scheme and Resolution Health Medical Scheme merger is confirmed	65 of 2018 Medical scheme benefit options for open and restricted schemes approved with effect from 1 January 2019

Special Notices

Equipment for sale

Sonar Machine and B&W Printer for sale

Philips Affiniti 50W. Purchased in December 2017. In excellent condition. Excellent support and training by Philips.

Machine details:
21.5" LCD flat panel monitor, Articulating Arm, Curved linear probe, Endovaginal probe & 4D probe, CD/DVD Drive, Colour Doppler, M mode

B&W printer
Price: **R500 000**
Monthly payment plan offered

Please contact: drhjacobson@gmail.com

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