



#### NOTICE

Private Practice Review presents the reader with a summary of the most relevant breaking news in the local and global healthcare industry, as obtained from media sources, including the public broadcaster, independent television broadcasters, independent news agencies, newspapers, radio and news sites. HealthMan strives to quote the Original Source. HealthMan compiles this information to provide the reader with a brief overview of the most recent events and developments as they are reported in the media. The views and opinions expressed in Private Practice Review are those of the authors of the media sources and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of HealthMan, its directors, employees and associates.

## → INTRODUCTION

HealthMan staff and management hope that all Healthcare Professional clients had a relaxing, safe festive season and we wish our valued clients and staff all the best for 2022.

2021 was indeed a dramatic year for South Africans. The COVID-19 Pandemic, which has become endemic to everyday life continues to impact all economically, socially and personally. As we move out of the fourth wave, it is hoped that we are at least at the beginning of the end, and that life will return to greater normality in 2022.

South Africa was rocked by a number of significant events in the past year. Notably, the civil unrest and riots that took place in July showed the fragility of stability in the country and raised serious concerns and questions about Government's ability to effectively deal with crises on a National and Provincial scale.

In contrast, however, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been characterised not by the anticipated logistical inefficiencies and availability or accessibility of vaccines, but rather by alarmingly vociferous vaccine scepticism and widespread public apathy. It is reported that, to date, 28.4 million doses have been administered and that 16.1 million South Africans are fully vaccinated (representing 27.2% of the population). The qualified success in vaccination progress can be ascribed in no small part, to the active participation of the private healthcare sector.

As expected, the widespread corruption and graft in PPEs continued to be exposed and little to no remedial action has been forthcoming. 5 August 2021 saw the resignation. (after a two month suspension) of the previous Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize amid the Digital Vibes scandal demonstrating that this issue reaches the upper echelons of Government. Dr Joe Phaahla was appointed as the Minister of Health on 6 August 2021.

2021 saw a number of legislative and regulatory developments that present new challenges to our clients and will require agility and innovation to navigate. HealthMan will continue to keep our clients informed and work together with you in dealing with all matters affecting your practices.

We wish you a prosperous and peaceful 2022.

**The HealthMan Team**

31 January 2022

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