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Healthnews Highlights(?) January - June 2022

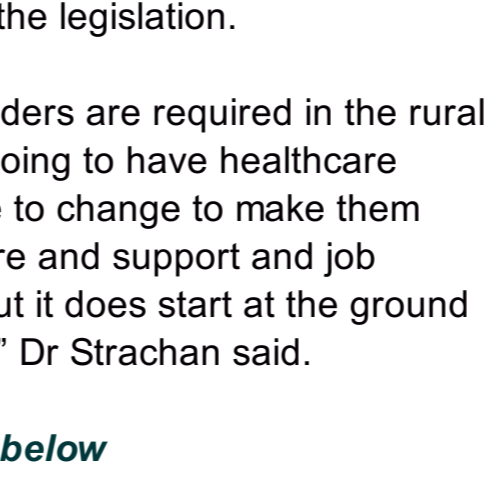
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Healthnews Highlights(1) January to June 2022
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SAPPF welcomes ruling on CoN



The controversial nearly two-decade old Certificate of Need, the CoN, which would have enabled government to bail doctors where they can practice and under what conditions, has finally been declared unconstitutional...

Welcoming the judgment, SAPPF CEO Dr Simon Strachan called it a "no-nonsense ruling" that very clearly highlighted the unconstitutionality of the legislation.

"I don't think anybody would deny that more healthcare providers are required in the rural areas but the vehicle to achieve it is not this CoN if we are going to have healthcare providers going into rural areas, the working conditions have to change to make them more favourable...

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SAPPF Comment Solidarity Comment

Ruling has 'serious implications' for NHI

"The ruling has 'serious implications' for the implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI), and the Department of Health will seek a rescission of the judgment and challenge the matter in the Constitutional Court...

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'No need to wait for NHI to fix health,' say researchers

"There has been real stagnation of health reform efforts while we wait for the NHI Bill, but there are things that can be done now," says Sacha Stevenson, Section 27 head of health...

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End of medical schemes?

"Implementing the NHI Bill in SA may imply the end of private medical schemes as we know it. These concerns are highlighted in a new report by Section 27 and the Concentric Alliance..."

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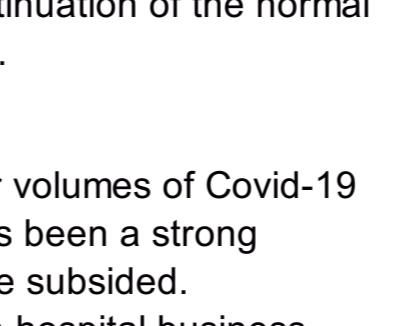
Cancer campaigner Dame Deborah James taught the world how to live and how to die

Click on the button below to watch the video

Watch the video

ADVERTORIAL

Securing and growing your legacy



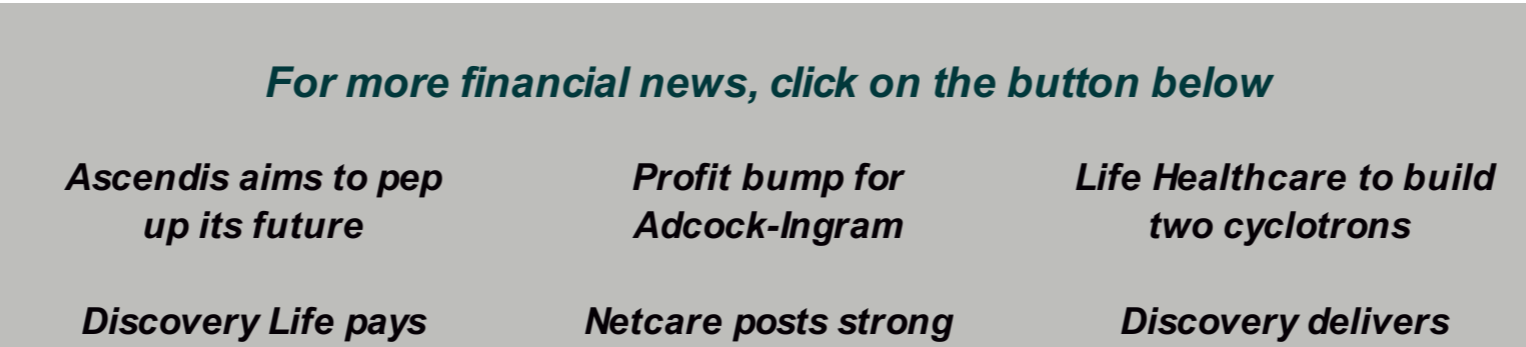
The notion of legacy is often referred to as something of the past. "My late mother's legacy" or "Trump's legacy of zero-tolerance on irregular border crossings"...

The Master of the High Court estimates that up to 70% of working South Africans do not have a will. Dying in testate, and thus most significant gift or can leave is a legacy to be proud of and the certainty that all financial matters have been addressed and dealt with...

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FINANCIAL NEWS



'SA hospital groups healthier and bigger'

Moneyweb reported on 27 May that, according to the latest results from SAs three listed healthcare groups, patient numbers have been increasing steadily from the lows of the Covid-19 pandemic...

- Netcare CEO Dr Richard Friedland said despite the lower volumes of Covid-19 experienced in December 2021 and January 2022, there has been a strong demand for private healthcare services since the fourth wave subsided...
Life Healthcare CEO Peter Wharton-Hood said the acute hospital business delivered a robust result in the current period...
Mediclinic CEO Ronnie van der Merwe said as disruption from the pandemic receded, the demand for a broad range of healthcare services drove inpatient and day case revenue up by 7%, and outpatient revenue up by 10% compared with the prior year.

Dis-Chem PHARMACIES

Healthy growth for Dis-Chem

Business Day, reported on 24 May 2022 that Dis-Chem's recent acquisitions helped its revenue exceed R30-bn for the first time in its history in its 2022 financial year.

According to CFO Rui Morais, expansion with an eye on additional market share gains continues although Dis-Chem is focusing on getting more out of existing assets by leveraging its brand. In March, the beginning of its 2023 year, the group launched its new range of Dis-Chem branded insurance products...

For more financial news, click on the button below

Ascendis aims to pep up its future
Profit bump for Adcock-Ingram
Life Healthcare to build two cyclotrons
Discovery Life pays out R12-bn
Netcare posts strong interim earnings
Discovery delivers growth despite Covid

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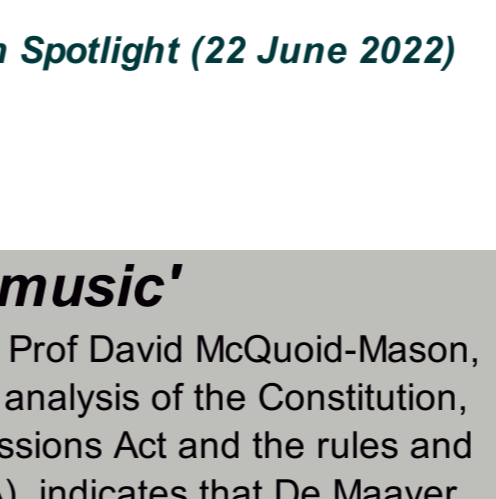
PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS

SAHPRA Complementary Medicines: SAHPRA reviews ruling

In April the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) said it will consult with its legal team following the Supreme Court of Appeal's (SCA) ruling that regulations concerning complementary medicines were invalid...

The regulations introduced a number of obligations to complementary medicines and health supplements including the labelling of containers, furnishing of professional information in hard copy or electronically, providing a patient information leaflet and advertising.

Breakthrough in Covid-19 treatment using African plants



The University of the Free State (UFS) has made a breakthrough with a potential treatment derived from plants. Known as Phele, the treatment contains extracts from four African plants that have traditionally been used to treat wasting conditions and as energy boosters.

For more pharmaceutical news, click on the button below

GEMS defends vitamin contract
South Africa and the Covid-P waiver
Fitness, jobs help prevent long Covid

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GENERAL NEWS

Stop disciplinary action against Dr De Maayer, ask health professionals

Business Day reported on 22 June that 137 leading figures in the health sector, including activists, scientists, doctors, academics, former high-ranking Health Department officials and senior executives from private hospital groups have written an open letter to Health Minister Joe Phisoa and Gauteng Premier David Makhura, condemning De Maayer's treatment.

In a Newsflash, SAPPF CEO Dr Simon Strachan, encouraged healthcare practitioners to sign the petition: "Let us not be part of the silent majority. It is necessary for us to be heard and for us to do this in union with all our colleagues."

Dr De Maayer was placed on precautionary suspension earlier this month by Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital CEO Nkomo Mkhayali after he wrote an open letter about the deteriorating conditions at the facility and other public hospitals, which he said were contributing to child deaths.

The group asks the establishment of a Public Health Administration Review Committee to reconfigure provincial health departments and devolve more authority to hospital boards and appoint appropriately skilled hospital CEOs and managers.

Click on the button below to read Editorial Comment in Spotlight (22 June 2022)

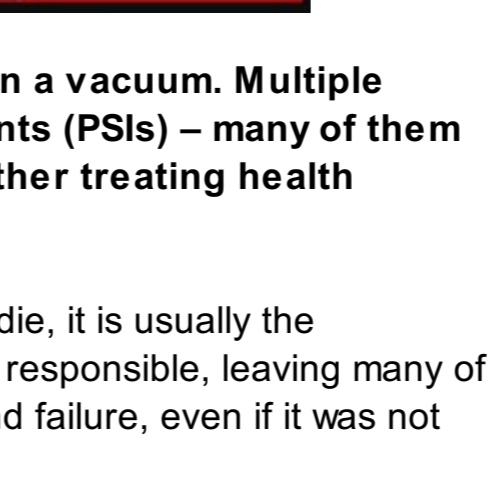
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'Officials should face the music'

In article published in SA Medical Journal (20 June 2022) Prof David McQuoid-Mason, professor of law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, said an analysis of the Constitution, the National Health Act, the Children's Act, the Health Professions Act and the rules and guidelines of the Health Professions Council of SA (HPCSA) indicates that De Maayer acted both legally and ethically to protect the child patients at Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital.

Times Live reported: "It appears the functionaries who sought to discipline Dr De Maayer for highlighting problems at the hospital he worked in were guilty of violating the constitution and the relevant legislation affecting children, and should be disciplined."

Hospital teams gear up to deliver remote, at-home, vital-sign monitoring



In January BizCommunity reported that a new innovation, hospital-at-home (HAH), could help the healthcare industry to cope with Covid-19 related problems, such as a lack of resources, bed capacity and healthcare workers being stretched beyond capacity.

"HAH allows patients, who would otherwise be admitted into a general ward in a hospital, to heal from home instead, with 24-hour remote vital-sign monitoring and active clinical intervention from their treating doctor."

"From a medical scheme point of view, HAH and remote monitoring services are now starting to be covered from a patient's hospital plan benefit, with a shorter duration of treatment needed for HAH patients."

BHF

BHF seeks go-ahead for price talks

"The Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) is once again seeking an exemption from the Competition Act's prohibition on collective bargaining, arguing that letting medical schemes and healthcare providers negotiate prices will boost competition and benefit consumers," reported Business Day (29 June 2022).

"The BHF's head of benefit and risk, Rajesh Patel, said it wanted to return to a system that had been in play until 2003, when it published tariff guidelines informed by industry-wide negotiations."

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Services neglected as Covid-19 was prioritised

Presenting the Health Budget in Parliament Health Minister Dr Joe Phisoa said the Department will now focus on the recovery of comprehensive health services, as some of these services took a back seat to the more pressing Covid-19 pandemic...

Health experts urge State to tighten tobacco laws

Public health experts have urged the government to revive its plans to tighten tobacco control. Following the results of SA's 2021 Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), the survey, done by the Medical Research Council (MRC), found that 29% of South Africans either smoke or use smokeless tobacco products...

Medicinal errors and adverse events don't occur in a vacuum. Multiple contributing factors can lead to patient safety incidents (PSIs) - many of them beyond the control of individual clinicians or other treating health professionals.

However, when things go wrong and patients are harmed or die, it is usually the healthcare professionals (HCPs) who get the blame and feel responsible, leaving many of them with feelings of guilt, depression, inadequacy, anger and failure, even if it was not their fault.

Emphasising that healthcare institutions and employers have a moral obligation to provide care to second victims, Dr Brenda Kubheka from IQ Consulting made an impassionate plea at a recent online symposium on Healthcare Incident Investigations for measures to be put in place to safeguard, guide and support workers when things go wrong.

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SPECIAL NOTES

Psychiatrist: Consulting Rooms to let in Fourways

We are looking for a psychiatrist to join our busy and vibrant reception at the heart of Fourways near Monte Casino in an supermarket retail and office park with restaurant, 24-hour security, access control and ample parking. We are a practice of 7 psychologists as well as other health professionals.

The office is on the 2nd floor of the practice and is approximately 32m2 with a modern loft feel. Rent: R11 000, including VAT. Includes services and utilities. Excludes personalised reception (approx R1500 extra) Contact Rachel Tillier Rachpractice@gmail.com

Vacancy for Specialist Physician at West Coast Vacancy for an energetic Specialist Physician to join a well-established practice at Life West Coast Private Hospital. Must be willing to work after-hours. Life West Coast Hospital has 61 general ward beds and a 6-bed ICU. Contact Details: accounts@westcoastphysician.co.za

Medical Rooms to let in Tokai, Cape Town Medical rooms to let/share in Tokai, Southern Suburbs, Cape Town. The premises has excellent visibility in an upmarket area opposite a large shopping centre. It also offers ample parking, security, unspoiled Wifi and is wheelchair friendly. Contact: Steve Pulfrod (optometrist) 012 477 0547

Vacancy for Ophthalmologist Cape Town Work in a Ophthalmic surgeon at the Eye Laser Clinic Group wanting to reside and position in Cape Town with view to partnership. Preference for retinal surgery experience. Equity partnership available. Contact Details: CEO Juandre Kruger: 082 662 3534 or Ceo@eyelasercapetown.co.za

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