

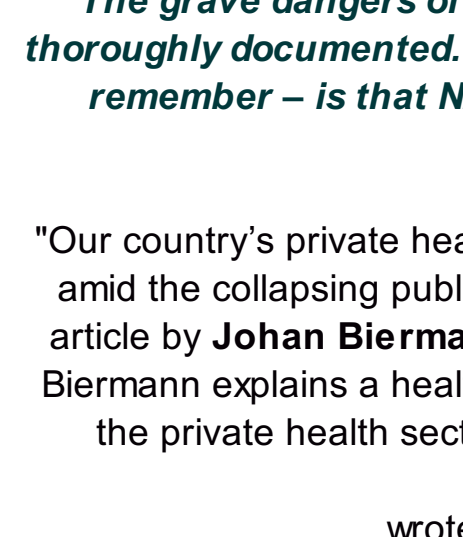
NOTICE
Private Practice Review identifies the reader with a summary of the most relevant breaking news in the local and global healthcare industry, as obtained from media sources, including the public, broadcast, independent television, radio, and print news agencies, newspapers, magazines, and other media. 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.

In this Newsletter

Food for Thought
Advertorial: PPS
News from Government
Pharmaceutical News

News from Medical Schemes
CMS Circulars
Special Notes

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



'The end of private medical schemes in South Africa?'

"The grave dangers of implementing National Health Insurance (NHI) have been thoroughly documented. One of these disadvantages – one that we often neglect to even think – is that it will cause South Africa to lose its world-class private healthcare firms."

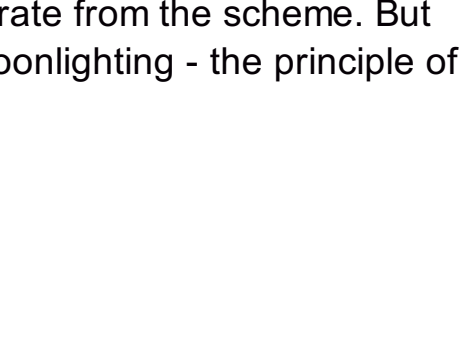
"Our country's private healthcare system really is one of the exceptional quality, a tiny niche in the collapsing public health sector that is falling the majority of SA citizens. In an article by **Johan Biermann**, a feasible and very hopeful alternative to NHI is put forth. Biermann explains a healthcare system where "the aim would be to maximise the role of the private health sector, and for the government to remove itself of its ability of providing healthcare"."

wrote **Nadya Swart** in *Business Day* (4 July 2022).

[Click here to read Johann Biermann's article:](#)

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Moonlighting drains specialist care at state hospitals



"Moonlighting was originally supposed to compensate for low salaries offered by the public health sector. The idea was that the government could prevent underpaid doctors from leaving state hospitals by allowing them to earn extra from private work."

reported *Medical Brief* (6 July 2022).

Meanwhile, medical officers' salaries increased by up to 68%, and specialists' pay rose by up to 50%, with the annual salaries of chief specialists rising to R1.2-m.

According to Dr Nicholas Crisp (Deputy Director-General of Health) there will be far less opportunities for dual practice once the NHI has been implemented. This will make it more difficult for specialist doctors to open a private practice separate from the scheme. But Crisp reasons that - rather than relying on the NHI to stop moonlighting - the principle of dual practice should be scrapped altogether.

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Healthcare reimagined

PwC's healthcare consulting team assessed the state and prospects of SA's healthcare industry during a period of immense transformation. The team surveyed 31 C-suite leaders of SA healthcare public, private and donor organisations by conducting in-depth interviews and online digital surveys, reported – *IT Online*, 7 July 2022.

The five key insights emerged from this survey :

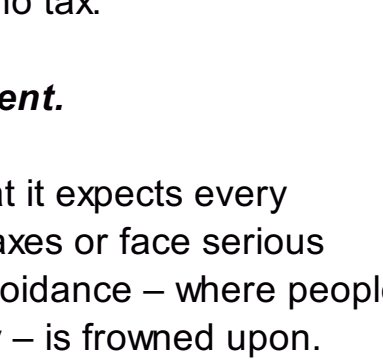
- National Health Insurance (NHI) will revolutionise South Africa's healthcare landscape and create opportunities for public-private collaboration and innovation;
- The Covid-19 pandemic has rapidly transformed the outlook of healthcare organisations in terms of their preparedness and resilience measures;
- The future of healthcare is brighter than ever with innovation and technical development progressing in leaps and bounds;
- The healthcare industry needs an increased focus on Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) initiatives and measurements; and
- Cybersecurity is critical for all organisations and is becoming an increased threat as data volumes increase.

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ADVERTORIAL

Legally arrange your taxes to reduce your liability



By Johannes Visser, PPS Wealth Manager

Why tax planning is an important part of your financial plan
When thinking about tax, I always recall a scene in the movie *The Shawshank Redemption*. For those who have watched it, it is where Andy is working on the rooftop and asks Captain Hadley if he trusts his wife. Andy was almost thrown off the rooftop for asking this. But then, he provides the captain with tax advice: "By donating the funds to his wife, the captain would be able to legally structure his affairs where he would pay the least amount of tax. In this case, he would pay no tax."

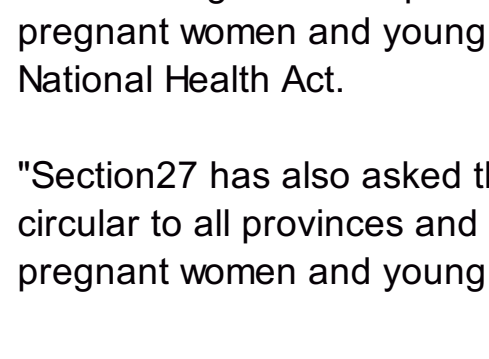
Tax is – for the most part – a grudge payment.

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) has made it clear that it expects every taxpayer to meet their tax obligations and pay their fair share of taxes or face serious consequences. It is illegal not to pay tax (tax evasion) while tax avoidance – where people or companies pay less tax than what SARS would like them to pay – is frowned upon. However, there are ways to structure one's finances – just like Andy did for Captain Hadley – that is legal but will reduce an individual's tax liability.

[To read the full article, click on the button below:](#)

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NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT



Section27 takes action over healthcare for migrants

Business Day reported on 1 July that Section27 has launched legal action in the Johannesburg High Court in an effort to ensure all pregnant women and young children have access to free services, regardless of their immigration status.

This follows the alleged refusal of Gauteng hospitals to provide free healthcare to pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under the age of six, who are migrants - asylum seekers, undocumented people and people who are stateless. In the application Section27 asked the court to rule that any regulations, policies and circulars issued by the Gauteng Health Department directing public health facilities to charge migrant pregnant women and young children for services are unlawful and contravene the National Health Act.

"Section27 has also asked the court to order the National Health Department to issue a circular to all provinces and publish posters in health facilities to make it clear that all pregnant women and young children are entitled to free healthcare."

Chris Hani: 'Disaster waiting to happen'

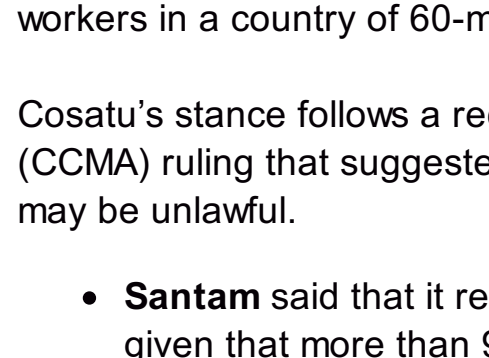


'A disaster waiting to happen' is how *Business Day* (4 July 2022) described the crisis at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital that could result in thousands of patients being unable to access much-needed healthcare. The hospital has been in the news for all the wrong reasons recently, with Gauteng Health MEC, Nomathamba Mkgethi, telling the provincial legislature that 870 operations had been cancelled due to maintenance and equipment problems, overbooking and linen shortages.

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'Gauteng Health has budget to do better'



In a presentation at the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) the head of Gauteng's treasury, Ncumisa Mryanti, said the Health Department is adequately funded, but lacks proper planning.

"Earlier, the commission heard the health department's maintenance budget was underfunded, but the treasury painted a completely different picture," reported *TimesLive* (13 July 2022).

With a budget of R59.4-bn, the department should be doing better to serve the people of Gauteng, given the resources at hand, said the presenter.

Dr Nomonde Nolutshungu, head of Gauteng Health, said the biggest challenge the department faces is medico-legal claims, which took the biggest chunk of the department's budget.

Cosatu to challenge mandatory vaccinations



On 12 July *Business Day* reported that Cosatu plans to challenge mandatory Covid-19 vaccination, demanding that workers dismissed for non-compliance be reinstated.

Cosatu's Parliamentary co-ordinator, Matthew Parks, said that while the labour federation supports the vaccination mandate against Covid-19 it cannot support the dismissal of any workers in a country of 60-m where only about 14-m people are employed.

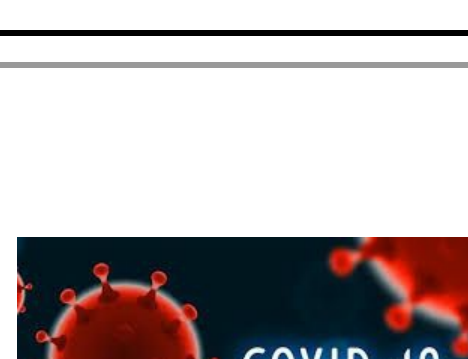
Cosatu's stance follows a recent Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) ruling that suggested mandatory Covid-19 vaccination policies in the workplace may be unlawful.

- Santam** said that it reviewed its vaccination policy towards the end of June and given that more than 90% of its employees are vaccinated, it believes the risk posed by Covid-19 in the workplace has been significantly reduced;
- Discovery Health** said while its mandatory vaccination policy remains in place, no employees have been dismissed for non-compliance though it added that 98% of staff are vaccinated.

[Also read Editorial Comment in Business Day \(13 July 2022\)](#)

[Also Read](#)

Minister requests new mask mandate due to Centaurus subvariant

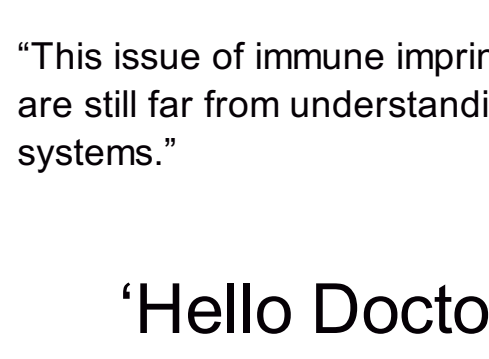


Daily Maverick reported on 15 July that virologists around the world expressed concern about a new Covid-19 subvariant known as Centaurus, which is thought to be extremely transmissible with the potential to cause more severe disease.

"BA.2.75 has been detected in 10 countries, including India, the UK, the US, Australia, Germany and Canada, and it has been designated as a 'variant under monitoring' by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

- Although it has not been detected yet in SA, Health Minister Joe Phaahla filed an affidavit in the Pretoria High Court, requesting the option to introduce a new mask mandate as an available public health measure in case of another outbreak.

PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS



Pharmacies against Post Office dispensing medicines

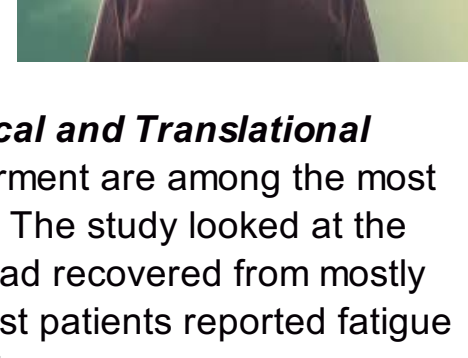
The Independent Community Pharmacy Association has expressed concern that the SA Post Office will be acting as a collection point for chronic medicines.

"But the Health Department said the programme has benefited more than five million patients receiving life-saving chronic medication," reported *Cape Times* (6 July 2022). According to the association, which represents more than 1 200 independent pharmacies, post offices do not have temperature control and warning systems to manage medicines at a constant temperature.

Post Office spokesperson, Johan Kruger, reacted that they did not dispense medication. However, Kruger, said collecting medication at the Post Office took around five minutes because the parcel could be scanned, and the patient must sign for receiving it.

GENERAL NEWS

Second Covid-19 infection may cause long-term damage



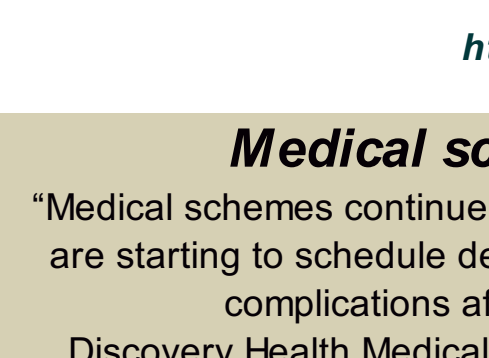
"The risk of long-term damage or prolonged symptoms increased with the second Covid-19 infection. What is not clear is whether the damage came from Covid-19 severe repeat infections or if it has anything to do with 'long Covid'," reported *Bloomberg News* (14 July 2022).

This is according to the latest US research – where the records from more than 5-m people were used to compare the fates of the never-infected with more than 250 000 who sought care for one Covid-19 infection, and about 38 000 who sought care for two or more infections.

In another study, published in *Science*, researchers found hints that "previous infections with the original variant, or the offshoots Alpha and Delta, might interfere with the body's ability to make antibodies specific to Omicron and its offspring, thus leaving people more vulnerable to reinfection.

"This issue of immune imprinting deserves more, bigger, better studies because scientists are still far from understanding the battle between this evolving virus and our immune systems."

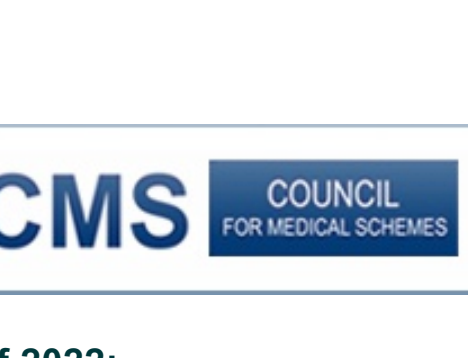
'Hello Doctor' relaunched in Western Cape



"Patients will now be able to get medical advice on the spot 24/7 thanks to a tele-triage service called 'Hello Doctor', which has been relaunched by the Western Cape Health Department in partnership with Momentum Metropolitan," reported *TimesLive* (4 July 2022).

The service was first launched in 2019, but had to be suspended due to the pandemic. Instead of going to the clinic for their ailments, **Hello Doctor** allows low-risk patients access to medical advice. They can be triaged at the top of a finger by sending a 'call-back' request and connecting to medics without physically visiting the health facility.

'Brain fog' still reported six months after Covid-19 infection



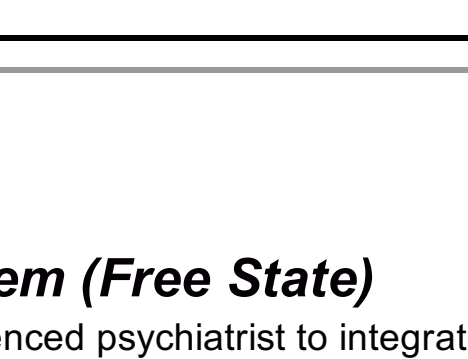
According to a recent study, a loss of concentration and memory impairment are the most prevalent symptoms six months after infection with Covid-19.

The study, published in the medical journal, *Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology*, found a loss of concentration and memory impairment are among the most prevalent symptoms six months after infection with Covid-19. The study looked at the neurological symptoms that persisted in patients after they had recovered from mostly mild or moderate Covid-19 infection. After their recovery, most patients reported fatigue (89.3%) and headaches (80.4%) as the most common symptoms.

"At the six-month follow-up, memory impairment (88.8%) and decreased concentration (81.5%) were the most prevalent, though on average all symptoms showed a reduction in reported severity score at the follow-up." - *TimesLive* (18 July 2022).

NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES

Medical Scheme industry remained 'fairly stable' according to Alexander Forbes report



"Overall, the profile of the industry remained fairly stable and the financial position is sound with the industry reserve levels being at a record high," reads the conclusion of *Alexander Forbes' Medical Aid Insights (2021/2022)*.

"A number of schemes' financial positions have improved with a marked increase in the number of schemes ending 2020 with operational surpluses. The impact of Covid-19 on the industry has been a reduction in the total healthcare costs faced by most schemes and a marginal decrease in the number of members of medical schemes from 2019 to 2020."

[To read the report, go to: https://www.alexanderforbes.co.za](#)

Medical schemes keep recording surpluses

"Medical schemes continue to accumulate record-high surpluses even as their members are starting to schedule delayed elective surgeries and deal with more severe medical complications after the lockdowns," reported *Fin24* (4 July 2022).

Discovery Health Medical Scheme (DHMS), ended with a R2-bn surplus in 2021 and Medisfield had a surplus of R188.8-m accumulated in 2021

CIRCULARS FROM THE CMS

No new circulars were published by the CMS in July 2022.



Circular 33 of 2022:
Updated Administrator Accreditation Standards – Version 7

Circular 34 of 2022:
General concerns noted during the analysis of the 2021 Annual Financial Statements (AFS) and Annual Statutory returns (ASR)

Circular 35 of 2022:
CMS Proposals to revise Circular 20 of 2010 pertaining to the appointment of brokers by a member and/or employer in terms of Regulation 28(7) of the Medical Schemes Act, 131 of 1998

Circular 36 of 2022:
Quarterly Statutory Returns Submission for 2022

Circular 37 of 2022:
Amendment to Regulations 31 and 32 of the Medical Schemes Act

Circular 38 of 2022:
Invitation for comments on the updated Accredited Managed Health Care Services document

Circular 39 of 2022:
Annual Statutory Return development for 2022

Circular 40 of 2022:
Extension of deadline for comments to revise Circular 20 of 2010 on the appointment of Brokers by a member and/or employer in terms of Regulation 28(7) of the Medical Schemes Act (131 of 1998)

SPECIAL NOTES

Vacancy for Psychiatrist in Bethelhem (Free State)

An exciting new opportunity exists for a qualified and experienced psychiatrist to integrate or start their own practice based at a leading Wellness Facility in Bethelhem with existing patients and referrals to the clinic to function independently!

Applicants must submit a CV to CMS World's Best supporting documents to: zurika@divergentrecruit.co.za
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted directly

[For minimum essential qualifications, click on the button below](#)

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Psychiatrist: Consulting Rooms to let in Fourways

We are looking for a psychiatrist to join our busy and vibrant practice situated in the heart of Fourways near Monte Casino in an upmarket retail and office park with restaurant, security, access control and simple 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 **Rachael 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 Private Hospital has 61 general ward beds and a 6-bed ICU.
Contact Details:
accounts@westcoastphysician.co.za

Vacancy for Ophthalmologist Cape Town

Position for an Ophthalmic surgeon at the Eye Laser Clinic Group wanting to reside and work 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@eyelaserclinic.co.za

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