

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.

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BREAKING NEWS (\rightarrow)

from 13% to 5.7% SAPPF, in collaboration with other representative groups, has successfully managed to convince the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) to decrease the

HPCSA cuts fee increase

annual HPCSA registration fee increase from 13% to 5.7%. On 4 February 2022, the HPCSA gazetted its 2022 fee increase. Following this news, SAPPF joined several HealthCare Provider Groups (South African Dental Association (SADA), SAMA,

SASA, NHCPA) and requested the Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaalala, to intervene. A request by the Minister to revise the annual fee increase resulted in an extraordinary HPCSA meeting on Saturday, 19 March 2022 where the following resolutions were taken: Realignment of the fee increase for 2022/3 financial year to a maximum increase

of 5,7% for affected Professional Boards whose fee increase were above Consumer Price Index (CPIX). Affected practitioners who have already made a full payment on the annual fee will receive a credit on their account in due course to implement the above assumed

reduction in annual fee increase. • The deadline for payment of the newly revised 2022/23 annual fee increase will be extended until 30 April 2022.

 The Health Professions Council of South Africa will soon gazette the newly revised 2022/23 fee increases in line with the resolution of the extra-ordinary Council meeting held on Saturday, 19 March 2022. The group that collaborated to achieve this success will now focus on the unbundling of the

HPCSA resulting in an Independent Medical and Dental Council. To read the full statement by SAPPF (CEO) Simon Strachan, click on the button below Read More

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

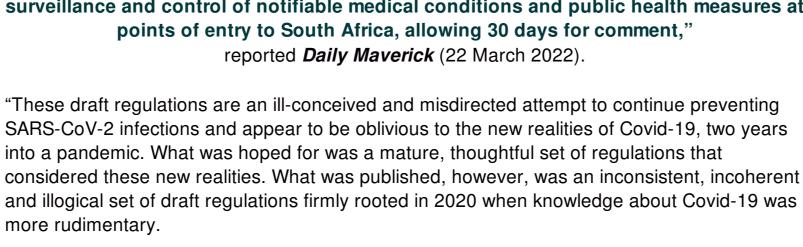
'Incoherent and illogical new regulations are the real

"On 15 March 2022, the government published new draft regulations relating to the surveillance and control of notifiable medical conditions and public health measures at

more rudimentary.

points of entry to South Africa, allowing 30 days for comment," reported *Daily Maverick* (22 March 2022). "These draft regulations are an ill-conceived and misdirected attempt to continue preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections and appear to be oblivious to the new realities of Covid-19, two years into a pandemic. What was hoped for was a mature, thoughtful set of regulations that

state of disaster'



"The writers of these regulations seem to remain out of touch with the realities of the daily lives of the South African population." To read more Read More

Also Read: 'SA's gathering restrictions eased, but showdown over State of Disaster looms'

Read More

"Funding for healthcare services - as well as other socio-economic rights - will be cut

Read More

'Healthcare needed a recovery budget, we got the opposite'

back in real terms over the next three years to create a primary budget surplus that can be used to reduce public debt. This will have foreseeable and serious negative impacts on access to healthcare services for the 50-m people inSA who rely on public

healthcare when they are sick," reported Spotlight (22 March 2022). "Alarmingly, in real terms (i.e. after adjusting for CPI inflation), the public health sector will face an average 4.3% reduction in funding each year for the next three years. When the projected growth in public healthcare users is factored in, the 2022 budget proposals equate to a reduction in funding per healthcare user from R5 267 in 2021/22, to R5 036 per user in

Accident

RAF revolt: Experts withdraw medico-legal opinions over

opinions obtained. "This follows RAF recently informing medical experts appointed by its former panel of attorneys that they had not been properly authorised to perform these services, which have been conducted since 2015, and would therefore not be paid." According to a letter, addressed to Zondo: "The panel attorneys had always been the

instructing body to medical experts and acted as RAF representatives. The RAF failed its mandate when it neglected its simple duty to renew expert contracts timeously and then also terminated the panel attorneys who had committed to acting as the paying-

middle-man while the RAF supposedly re-contracted the experts for direct

To read more, click on the button below: Read More

Sections 36 and 40 of the National Health Act pertaining to the implementation of a Certificate of Need declared invalid. "In its application Solidarity argued that the requirements of the proposed Certificate of Need infringe unlawfully on the right of health practitioners to practise their profession. The application has been endorsed by various role players and associations in the healthcare sector, including the SAPPF. "It is unacceptable and absurd that someone such as a private general practitioner should first apply to the government before they may set up a practice. What is even

worse is that it is within the powers of the Director-General of the Department to

"Judgment has been reserved in the High Court in Pretoria in Solidarity's case to have

NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT Compensation Fund Commissioner explains

"The notice caused an uproar among medical service providers, especially as it came after the National Assembly removed a similar clause from the Compensation for Occupational Injuries

Compensation Fund Commissioner, Vuyo Mafata, said a notice gazetted in October 2021 was one of the fund's efforts to tighten internal controls, which had been highlighted as deficient by the Auditor-General. - Business Day (23 March 2022).

Charlotte Maxeke

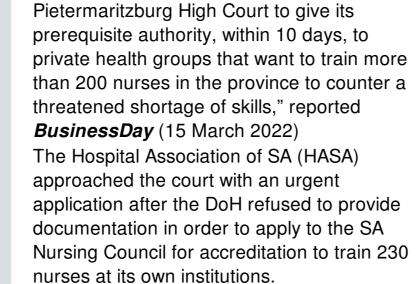
and Diseases Amendment Bill.

Behind the curtain at

"The Solidarity Fund, set up to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, donated R68-m to fix the hospital, but hospital CEO Gladys Bogoshi says the cost will be well more than that. As little progress has been made since the fire, the government is desperately trying to kick-start the renovation project. It aims to complete it by the end of 2023 instead of 2027, as initially planned."

"Walls are black with soot; some floors are propped up to prevent them from collapsing; leaks have flooded some wards, damaging electrical boards and lifts; and a major water pipe needs fixing. Staff and patients speak of frustration at the slow pace of repair at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital in Parktown," reported *Financial Mail* (3 March 2022).

reported *The Citizen* (11 March 2022). regarding race. This follows a row that saw The Gauteng DoH claims it is not in a the exit of SA Medical Association chair Dr Angelique Coetzee," reported *Medical Brief* (2 March 2022). Chantel King, DA Shadow Minister for



According to the DoH there was a three-year moratorium on nursing training because there was a "surfeit" of nurses in the province who needed jobs and who should be employed in

ADVERTORIAL

private hospitals.

as the number one risk

Africa.

facing the Middle East and

Give private nurses a lifeline

"The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health

admission requirements, specifically

admission requirements".

(DoH) has been directed by the

Slow Recovery a Top Threat in sub-Saharan Africa Concerns for a stalled economic recovery are reflected in Aon's 2021 Global Risk Management Survey, where the risk of economic slowdown/slow economic recovery is listed



It'll be over before poorer nations get Covid drug Bloomberg News (13 March 2022) reported that although agreements to expand global access to Pfizer's highly effective Covid-19 therapy will be announced shortly, parts of the world may wait a year for the drug due to production and regulatory hurdles.

"The UK purchased about 2.75-m and

go to lower-income nations. Still, health

advocates are calling on the company to

another 10-m of Pfizer's Paxlovid pills could

allocate more courses to the developing world and make Paxlovid available to researchers

FINANCIAL NEWS

Covid-19 therapies, according to **Bloomberg**.

evaluating its use in combination with other unvaccinated after experiencing higher Covid related death claims. Assistance in difficult Covid-19 circumstances With the COVID-19 pandemic having placed strain on the economy as a whole, and on some of our members, we took it upon ourselves to engage a highly reputable firm of attorneys, well versed in restructuring, during the latter part of 2021 to determine how we can best assist those of our members who are experiencing financial difficulty. Following the advice received, we understand that there are two ways, in the main, in which members can turn their businesses around, with either the use of informal restructuring tools or with the use of the more formal business rescue process. If any member is experiencing financial difficulties, we urge you to make contact with us sooner rather than later so that we can assist you in determining the prospects of turning around your business and guiding you through that process. Some of our members may indirectly experience this, if any of their suppliers are experiencing financial distress and in such instances, we encourage you to engage with us in an effort to determine how we can assist you in such circumstances.

Last shot at getting a Pfizer vaccine Aspenovax "SA has received all the 30-m Pfizer COVID jabs it has "Aspen has signed a contract procured from the drug manufacturer and the last batch that with Johnson & Johnson to was delivered - a consignment of 4 831 560 shots that arrived manufacture and sell an between October and December in 2021 - expires at the end Aspen-branded Covid-19 of July," reported **Bhekisisa Centre of Health Journalism** vaccine, Aspenovax, throughout Africa," reported (10 March 2022). Fin24 (9 March 2022)."In "After that date, Pfizer jabs not used or redistributed to other countries will have to be destroyed and more doses are unlikely to be procured directly from the company. According to Nicholas Crisp, who heads up SA's roll-out in the National

PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS

Vaccines

Dis-Chem

PHARMACIES

Pharmacists who care

traditional health insurance market in South Africa".

positioned as a bridge between the public and private healthcare sectors from both a cost and accessibility perspective". "TymeHealth is an app-based offering that provides medical insurance starting from R139 per month. The choice of health plan is made in the TymeBank app and, once successful, membership is activated. Members will be able to access over 12 000 registered healthcare providers, including GPs, pharmacies, dentists, optometrists, specialists and hospitals who are part of the National HealthCare Group provider network." Meanwhile, Business Day reported on 9 March 2022 that the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) has assured the industry it is intent on finalising a framework for cheap primary healthcare products and opening the market to new entrants, despite granting yet another grace period (31 March 2024) to rival health insurers. Primary health cover for about

Moneyweb reported on 11 March 2022 that Dis-Chem Health and TymeHealth (launched by

TymeBank) with broad distribution and affordable propositions, are "looking to disrupt the

Dis-Chem Health seeks to fill a gap in what the group terms "affordable and quality private

According to Dis-Chem it sees its 430 in-store clinics across more than 250 stores as "well-

healthcare in an environment where more people are prepared to pay for healthcare".

CIRCULARS FROM THE CMS The following circulars were published by the CMS in March 2022. **Circular 12 of 2022: Circular 16 of 2022:**

CEO Adrian Gore said more affordable SA insurance could help address a shortage of doctors and dilapidated facilities in the public health system, which is relied on by at least 72% of the nation's 60-m people. Buyers of the Flexicare product administered by Discovery will also get

SPECIAL NOTES

access to wellness and screening programs.

Annual Statutory Return for

RTM submissions for 2022

31 December 2021

Circular 13 of 2022:

Circular 14 of 2022:

EV for publication

account their own unique and specific circumstances in acting on any news or articles published. Often these articles originate from sources outside our organization that are reported in the national press. Consequently, any information, trademarks, service marks, product names or named features are assumed to be the property of their respective owners. and are used solely for informative purposes in our publications. There is furthermore no implied endorsement of any of the products, goods or services mentioned in our publications.

2022/23, and then very sharply down to R4 538 per user in 2023/24, and R4 465 in 2024/25 (in constant 2022/23 Rands)." To read more, click on the button below

non-payment

paymement."

Medical professionals contracted to provide expert opinions in Road Accident Fund (RAF) court hearings, have asked Chief Justice Raymond Zondo to withdraw those not yet used, in retaliation for RAF failures to pay, as well as "penalties" levied by the RAF to reduce the amounts owed, reported *MedicalBrief* on 9 March 2022. This would implicate that RAF cases could not progress until payments were made or

SPECIAL NEWS Judgment reserved in

Certificate of Need case

prescribe virtually all the practice's activities, ranging from the equipment to its human resources, and even the size of the practice," Pierru Marx, the network coordinator for Solidarity's Medical Sector said. To read more, click on the button below: Read More

"The notice implies that the fund would make claims payments only into bank accounts of beneficiaries, which effectively excludes companies that collect and administer claims on behalf of employers and the medical profession. "Mafata stressed that the Public Finance Management Act requires the fund to institute these internal control measures. He said the fund could not delay compliance with the Public Finance Management Act because a bill was being processed by Parliament or because amendments would result in someone going out of business."

To read more, click on the button below Read More

Med Schools face PAIA Baragwanath Academic Hospital staff 'sick and tired' applications over admission "Healthcare workers are demanding action requirements from the Gauteng Department of Health "The Democratic Alliance (DA) has (DoH) after patients were left starving due to submitted Promotion of Access to Information supply challenges and hundreds of Covid Act (PAIA) applications to SA's 13 medical contracts were apparently not renewed at schools to ascertain their

budgetary crisis, but admitted to owing service providers R4-bn. Unpaid bills were the reason Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital had no bread supplies "The DA move follows the resignation of Dr for three weeks. Angelique Coetzee as chairperson of the SA More than 42 000 suppliers have not been Medical Association (SAMA) after her paid within the required 32 days, reported comments in the media that "different criteria *The Citizen* (12 March 2022). exist for different race groups with regard to Government still struggling to get jabs into SA arms

the country.

Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital,"

According to Health Minister Joe Phaahla the

government is still struggling to get South

especially after a "less severe" fourth wave.

Phaahla said the vaccination programme is

and all measures are in place to sustain this

There are at least 25-m doses of vaccine in

vaccinate, which is more difficult now because

many believe that the pandemic is over purely

able to administer 250 000 vaccinations a day

Africans vaccinated against Covid-19,

capability. (News24 15 March 2022).

"The challenge is convincing people to

because the impact of the fourth (Omicron) wave was less severe," said Phaala.

According to the Aon Global Risk Management Survey, the following industries listed the risk of economic slowdown and slow economic recovery as a top threat: To read the article, click on the button below:

Read More

127% reported **Business Day** (15 March "Deputy chair of the life and risk board committee of the Association for Savings and Investment SA (ASISA), Hennie de Villiers, said in the six-month period to end September 565 522 claims were received with a value of R44.42-bn Meanwhile, Old Mutual has repriced premiums on new policies for the

Death claims surge

SA life insurers have reported a 53% surge in

period before the onset of the pandemic. The

rand value of these claims has increased by

death claims for the six months to end-

September 2021 compared with the same

terms of the deal, Aspen will make the finished Aspenovax product from the drug Health Department, they would see what the uptake looks like, substance supplied by J&J and if needed, would ask for doses from Covax. But, he said, and sell Aspenovax in Africa we are highly unlikely to procure more Pfizer doses after July, to governments and specific because we still have Johnson & Johnson doses after July, organisations. The deal which is also a good vaccine and should then be used." expires in 2026." **NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES**

TymeBank & Dis-Chem enter

health insurance market

Discovery

Health

Annual Statutory Returns for the financial year

Notice to Medical Schemes regarding annual

general members' meetings and trustee

ended 31 December 2021

Circular 17 of 2022:

elections

aspen

R350/month "Discovery is starting to sell private health cover in SA at about a third of the price of its prior entry-level product, a move to attract new customers and tap into pandemic-heightened concerns about health," reported *Bloomberg News* (14 March 2022). It will offer primary care for about R350 a month, giving customers access to a network of

doctors, emergency procedures and treatment for chronic conditions including HIV.

Circular 18 of 2022: Circular 15 of 2022: Statement of Cash Flows SANAC HIV TB and STI data **Circular 19 of 2022:** Adjustment of fees payable to Brokers March 2022

Medical rooms to rent in Tokai

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Steve Pulford (optometrist) has medical rooms to rent/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, uncapped Wifi and is wheelchair friendly. Contact Steve: 072 477 0547 Vacancy for Specialist Physician

Life West Coast Private Hospital (Vredenburg) has a vacancy for an energetic Specialist Physician to join their well-established practice. Must be willing to work after-hours. Life West Coast Private Hospital has 61 general ward beds and a 6-bed ICU. For more information, email: accounts@westcoastphysician.co.za