Private Practice Review, January - June 2022 PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW 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. In this Newsletter Healthnews Highlights(1) January - June 2022 Food for Thought News from Medical Schemes Advertorial: PPS CMS Circulars News from Government Special Notes Special News In the next issue: Healthnews Highlights(2) January to June 2022: Financial News, Pharmaceutical News and **General News FOOD FOR THOUGHT** Focus on: Implementing National Health Insurance 'Taking care of healthcare' "Almost the entire political and academic elite is uniformly in favour of a state-run NHI system. "Nobody wants to say this because it sounds elitist but let me just tromp where angels fear to tread, wrote Tim Cohen in **Busines Maverick** (30 May 2022) "I think creating a wholly state-controlled system would be a catastrophic disaster. It would result in worse average healthcare, worse healthcare for the poor, and, most importantly, it would eradicate huge strides made by the private healthcare sector over the past decades. "What the government does not understand, is that what people pay for private healthcare is their money. It's their choice. They could use that money for something else." Click here to read more: Read More Health Minister's powers should be limited On 2 June 2022, *Daily Maverick* (Editorial Comment) wrote: "This week , MPs start clause-by-clause deliberations of the NHI Bill that, in late 2019, landed in Parliament. It's one of the last legislative steps before the health committee agrees to the Bill and takes it to the House," "ANC lawmakers, who have the numbers in the House, have already indicated they will support the NHI Bill pretty much as is. IFP is in support. The DA, EFF and Freedom Front Plus are not. "What is needed instead, are measures to limit wide ranging ministerial powers; to allow Parliamentary oversight in appointments as happens with the SABC, the Auditor-General and the Public Service Commission (and elsewhere), and fund decision-making. Also crucial are greater independent checks and balances on the board and its benefit and procurement committees through established health sector organisations." Click here to read more: Read More Also read the following regarding the implementation of the NHI Bill NHI Bill - clause-by-clause headbutting 'NHI will stand or fall on Parliament's begins in Parliament approach to corruption' (**Spotlight**, 3 June 2022) (Daily Maverick, April 2022). Read More Read More NHI the right thing, says Adrian Gore Pipe dreams go up in smoke, says Peter Bruce (Times Live, 15 May 2022) (Business Day, 13 May 2022) Read More Read More More NHI news under the headings: 'News from Government' and 'News from Medical Schemes' Focus on: COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL Impact of Covid-19 RESEARCH on the SA economy INSTITUTE An initial analysis - International Food Policy Research Institute Read More SIU probe only scratches surface of 'dirty spending' "The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) may have identified about R8-bn of irregular spending linked to the government's response to the Covid-19 outbreak and recovered about R34-m, but that barely scratched the surface, with most contracts not having been investigated," reported **Business Day** (26 Jan 2022) "Despite procurement scandals involving prominent political figures such as former Health Minister Zweli Mkhize and President Cyril Ramaphosa's former spokesperson, Khusela Diko, less than 10% of the R152.5-bn spent between April 2020 and September 2021 came under the microscope. "The SIU cleared 1 313 service providers linked to 1 655 contracts worth R5.3-bn of any irregularity. However, deals with 91 suppliers at a value of R179-bn are still unchecked, Click here to read more Read More Also read Pieter-Louis Myburgh's article on 'age of accountability' in Daily Maverick (24 May 2022) Read More **ADVERTORIAL** Securing and growing your legacy - By Werner Rossouw, PPS Wealth Manager 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 idea of creating our legacy every day by the choice we make, is inspiring. It encourages us not to be lethargic in our approach to life, love and living. This theme of "taking action" must then also apply to securing the legacy we create. The Master of the High Court estimates that up to 70% of working South Africans do not have a will. Death is tragic, and the most significant gift we can leave, is a legacy to be proud of and the certainty that all financial matters have been addressed and dealt with. To read the full article, click on the button below Read More **NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT Public opposition is** 'instigating terrorism' "Anti-progressive', 'instigating terrorism', 'sabotage' and 'forcing government to waste resources' is how groups opposed to government's proposed health regulations are characterised in internal emails floating around the Department of Health," reported *MoneyWeb* (14 June 2022). "The emails were discovered during a court process initiated by public participation group DearSA, which received more than 300 000 comments from South Africans on proposed changes to health regulations that would arm the state with unprecedented powers to contain future outbreaks of 'notifiable diseases' such as Yellow Fever, Smallpox and Covid. "Under the proposed regulations, the government plans to award itself vast powers to forcibly test for notifiable diseases, impose mask mandates and forcibly quarantine South Africans at the order of a doctor, nurse or law enforcement official." In the email four groups (AfriForum, DearSA, Liberty Fighters Network and Action 4 Freedom), are named as engaged in 'sabotage, instigating chaos or terrorism against the state'. These four groups are all currently involved in a legal battle with government over the health regulations. Click here to read more Read More Also read: 'Illogical new Covid regulations are the real state of disaster' - Daily Maverick, 30 March 2022 Read More 'SA's offer of Covid vaccines to Africa falls flat' "SA's plan to donate 15-m coronavirus vaccines to other African countries has fallen flat," reported **Business Day** (7 June 2022). This follows President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement in May that SA would donate 5-m Pfizer and 10-m Johnson & Johnson (J&J) doses to countries in the rest of Africa. According to the Department of Health's deputy Director-General for National Health Insurance, Nicholas Crisp, 100 000 doses have been donated to Kenya. "Many African countries are already in line to receive stocks from the vaccine-sharing programme Covax, which has so many doses lined that it won't buy stock from SA company Aspen Pharmacare." • Meanwhile, 49.8% of the population has been vaccinated and the weekly vaccination rate has plunged from a peak of 1.026-m in the last week of August 2021 to just 44,220 in the week to 5 June 2022. Focus on: The plight of Doctors working in Public **Hospitals** The saga of Dr Tim de Maayer, which played itself out during the past few weeks, has had an impact, not only on healthcare professionals in the public and private sector, but also on every single South African who realises that his/her child may also end up in a facility with abominable conditions. Plight of doctors in Dr De Maayer: SAPPF joins healthcare public hospitals profession's outrage Dr Tim de Maayer, a In a **Newsflash** to all its members Dr Simon Strachan, CEO of **SAPPF**, supported Dr De Maayer, saying: paediatrician based at Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, was "As healthcare professionals we are focussed on suspended by the Gauteng delivering the best service we can to achieve the best Health Department after results and outcomes for our patients. Dr De Maayer's Daily Maverick (22 May) patients were not receiving the level of care they required published a letter by Dr De and this was resulting in outcomes less than he expected. Maayer, exposing the This view has been reiterated by his colleagues and peers problems faced by doctors working in the same hospital. working in Public Hospitals in Gauteng. "The response to Dr De Maayer's letter by the hospital management and the Gauteng DoH has got to move Dr De Maayer's beyond a disciplinary process into Dr De Maayer's motives suspension was and must move to improving all that is required to ensure lifted on 9 June the best outcomes for our patients 2022 "SAPPF joins the outrage expressed by the healthcare Click on the button below to profession and demands that Dr De Maayer be reinstated read the letter published in unconditionally. We also support the call for an inquiry into Daily Maverick. the processes and persons responsible for applying the suspension in the first place." Read More Also read: Justin Brown's article 'SA's missing doctors' in *Financial Mail*, 16 June 2022 Read More **Board of Healthcare Funders** asks CC for exemption In a notice, published in the Government Gazette (6 May 2022) the National Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) states that it has applied to the Competition Commission to be exempted from certain provisions of Chapter 2 of the Competition Act No 89 of 1998. In its application, BHF states that it is "severely hampered in its ability to exert downward pressure on the prices of healthcare services". If further asserts that a lack of regulation has created "runaway prices" on the supply side. BHF intends to publish a Scale of Benefits as a reference price list and determine "what tariffs are considered reasonable". Such an exemption would allow BHF to negotiate collectively with representative associations and would facilitate collaborations on healthcare technology assessments. A similar application in 2008 was rejected by the Competition Commissioner. The South African Private Practitioners Forum (SAPPF) responded as follows: "SAPPF will certainly oppose this and will file its submission before 30 June 2022. We understand that there will be widespread opposition to the BHF application. The reintroduction of a Scale of Benefits would be a hugely retrogressive step," wrote SAPPF Chairman Dr Philip Matley. Click on the buttons below to read the BHF statement and SAPPF's reaction Read More on BHF Read More on SAPPF Increase cut to 5,7% In February the South African Private Practitioners Forum (SAPPF), in collaboration with other groups, managed to convince the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) to decrease the annual HPCSA registration fee increase from 13% to 5.7%. SAPPF and several groups, including SA Dental Association (SADA), SAMA, SASA, NHCPA), asked the Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, to intervene. On his request the increase for 2022/3 financial year was changed to a maximum increase of CPIX of 5,7% for affected Professional Boards whose fee increase were above Consumer Price Index (CPIX) **SPECIAL NEWS** (\rightarrow) Death notification forms: Take a breath before signing them App Store off – experts MED BRIEF AFRICA Knowing the law is essential to confidently handling any familial or professional pressure when writing up a death notice – and to avoid any legal blowback, should the cause of death be questioned later. These cautionary flags were flown by two seasoned forensic pathologists, one in private healthcare and the other in academia and the state healthcare sector, during a cyber seminar hosted by the Medical Protection Society on 2 June 2022. Dr Izak Loftus, a veteran pathologist and histopathologist in private practice and Prof Thernesan Naidoo, President of the College of Forensic Pathologists, based at the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha were addressing a highly attentive audience of healthcare professionals. To read more, click on the button below Read More NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES **Health Minister's comment** provides 'some comfort to medical scheme industry' Health Minister Joe Phaahla's comment that NHI will be implemented step-bystep, gradually phasing out the role of medical schemes in the private sector, should provide some comfort to these private healthcare services, according to **Business Day** (15 June 2022) Phaahla's comment signals a continued role for funders for at least several years to "The role of medical schemes is one of the most contentious and ambiguous aspects of the bill. On the one hand, section 33 says when NHI is 'fully implemented', medical schemes will not be allowed to provide cover for services reimbursable by the NHI. But, section 8 says people who choose their own healthcare providers instead of using the NHI 'referral pathway' will not be funded by the NHI, but will be able to claim from medical schemes or health insurers." CMS says it is intent on finalising cheap primary healthcare, but... In March, Business Day reported that the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) has

products and opening the market to new entrants, despite granting yet another grace period to rival health insurers.

"The CMS was tasked with developing a low-cost benefit options framework after the government brought into effect the demarcation regulations in April 2017, granting providers of health insurance products a two-year exemption to the rules requiring them to be brought under the watch of the pending finalising of a low-cost benefit options

In May Business Day reported that up to 20-m South Africans from low-income

plans for cheap, pared-down benefit options.

Discovery may offer primary

"Discovery is starting to sell private health cover in SA at about a third of the price of

care for about R350/month

its prior entry-level product, a move to

pandemic-heightened concerns about

(14 March 2022). It will offer primary care

for about R350 a month, giving customers

access to a network of doctors, emergency

conditions. Buyers of the Flexicare product

attract new customers and tap into

health," reported *Bloomberg News*

procedures and treatment for chronic

will also get access to wellness and

screening programs.

Mediclinic's grave

warnings over NHI

group Mediclinic warned in

Portfolio Committee that the

proposed NHI system may

inadequately funded, and

healthcare and medical aid

cover," reported Medical-

Brief (2 February 2022).

Circular 26 of 2022:

Circular 27 of 2022:

Circular 28 of 2022:

policies

2022-23

our publications.

Brokers earning commission on own

Induction Programme for Trustees

Approved Levies on Medical Schemes for

SPECIAL NOTES

to Parliament's Health

be unconstitutional, is

will destroy private

"Private hospital

its submission

(LCBO) framework as it might pose an impediment to NHI.

households could afford basic private healthcare services if the CMS stopped stalling on

Actuaries & Consultants' joint-CEO, Christoff Raath, told attendants at a recent Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) conference it would be a "moral tradegy" if rumours were true

Click on the button below to read more

Read More

TymeBank & Dis-Chem in

Moneyweb reported on 11 March 2022:

(launched by TymeBank) are "looking to disrupt the traditional health insurance

According to Dis-Chem it sees its 430 in-

store clinics across more than 250 stores

as "well-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

Covid jabs to be

treated as a PMB

In January the CMS issued

a statement informing the

medical schemes industry

that all Covid–19 booster vaccine shots should be

treated as a Prescribed

Minimum Benefit (PMB)

Health guidelines on

Department of

COVID-19.

level of care per National

that Dis-Chem Health and TymeHealth

health insurance market

market in South Africa".

R139 per month.

that the ANC is pressuring the CMS to put the brakes on the low-cost benefit options

framework.

assured the industry of its intent on finalising a framework for cheap primary healthcare

Dis-Chem PHARM

MEDICLINIC
EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST.

SO DISCOVERY
HealthID

Expensive plans

losing members

top-end medical aid

Moneyweb reported on

23 May that the members

on Discovery's (DHMS) six

plans have declined by 5%

between the end of 2020

The largest of the plans,

Classic Comprehensive,

has lost 35% percent of its

members over the last five

GEMS accused of discrimination

Cape Times reported on 8 April 2022 that the Government Employees' Medical Scheme (GEMS) was forced to strike a new deal with independent pharmacists who had accused it

and the end of 2021.

years.

of discriminating against them with dispensing fees for medication.

"The bone of contention emerged when the independent pharmacists discovered that they were paid a R28 dispensing fee while Dis-Chem got R64.30 for dispensing the same products."

CIRCULARS FROM THE CMS

No new circulars were published by the CMS in May and June 2022.

Psychiatrist: Consulting Rooms to let in Fourways

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Contact Rachel Tillier

Circular 29 of 2022:

Circular 30 of 2022:

SAICA Accounting Guide

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