HealthMan

PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

'Rogue regulations will deepen rot in Compensation Fund'

"The government has gone rogue, in gaslighting discretion, irrational and unreasonable regulations pertaining to the Compensation Fund the day after Parliament rose for recess. Employment & Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi currently is the chief gaslighter, with his department's rogue regulations, which were gazetted on Friday. Nxesi **The Sighs** *Business Day* 27 September 2021

"At the stroke of a pen, on September 10, Nxesi had in effect removed the right of medical practitioners to be paid for their services. The rogue regulations, which were gazetted without any consultation, seek to ensure they are paid for treating injured workers. Such is the institutional dysfunctionality of the Compensation Fund that even if they can navigate their way through the bureaucratic maze and have their claims processed, they are forced to wait up to two years for payment." according to Hughes.

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'Look at NHI costs in 20 years before rushing in'

"Through the NHI, we are about to embark on an intensive *choose your own adventure*" **story for our health system. The 2019 NHI Bill outlines a potential pathway to universal health coverage. A single purchaser (referred to as the NHI Fund) will purchase services from a range of providers. This will allow for more choice of medical schemes as we know them, and a rapid roll-out of those large medical schemes is not the only option.**

"What decision would you make about the structure of our country's future health system if you were not responsible for our citizens' health? What might you choose if you were the Greeks, the accountably mechanistic or the approach to delivering care? Does the proposed model of NHI, with its single purchaser, provide a good centred care and incentivise quality care for the resources spent?"

Hughes *Daily Maverick* 27 September 2021

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Anin Urai

OPINION: NHI bill needs a not-more work / *Bonitas Times* **(26 September 2021)**

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Doctors in 'turf war' with pharmacists

"A turf war." This is how HealthMan MD, Caspar Venter, described the increasing tension between medical practitioners and pharmacists. Venter said "patients should be an expanding access to all medicines," said Venter.

"The turf war was caused by the proposed changes to Pharmacy Guidelines, which will broaden the scope of pharmacists' prescribing rights, and allow them to prescribe diagnoses and prescribe medication to patients."

MedicalWeb "Turf wars that SA Medical Association (SAMA) is opposing the proposed amendments to a written submission to the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). SAMA rebrands the convention of what it deems as "over reach" of pharmacists' roles in healthcare as "turf war" – Venter.

To read the article published in MedicalWeb, click on the button below

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NEWS ON GOVERNMENT

Another head rolls in Digital Vibes saga

The Western Cape Premier's Health, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo has been appointed to take the vitaglo role of the R100 m Digital Vibes tender scandal. Dr Nomafrec Cmp, Deputy Director General: Health, Dr Keith Cloete, will be acting in the position to be vitaglo Mbombo's reporting process head.

"Business book vitrea as Health Director General in June 2020. A year later, in early vitrea this year, Business book vitrea left for the then minister when he left Vitrea, appointed Bertha gatherwright's portfolio committee on health to take questions about Digital Vitrea. Gatherwright commissioned in the Digital Vitrea tender." reported **Marion** 27 September 2021.

- In August Dr Zweli Mkhize resigned as Minister of Health after being implicated by the DA in the Digital Vibes Scandal.

SAHPRA streamlines approval process for vaccines

The SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), as well as other regulators have agreed on the minimum requirements for the various countries to speed up the approval process for Covid-19 vaccines. Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla said the South African Medicines Regulatory Working Group has been established to speed up the approval process for medicines and vaccines. The group includes experts in pharmacology, virology, immunology, clinical trials, epidemiology, ophthalmology and other specialties from the Medicines Control Council, the National Department of Health, SAHPRA has also published various Covid-19 vaccine guidance documents to guide applicants on the process and requirements for vaccine authorisation.

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SPECIAL NEWS

Certificate of Need regulations: 'withdraw, consult, redraft'

The controversial Certificate of Need (CoN) draft regulations take little relation to the recommendations made by the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), the Health Market Inquiry (HMI) recommendations, or the National Health Insurance – not least the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) and the National Health Council (NHC) have not been notified after proper consultation with all relevant health service and associated providers.

Making the cast a wrenner presentation to the Institute of Health Risk Managers (IHRM) on Tuesday, Dr Ayesha Ismail, Chairperson of the MAC said the MAC had recommended that CoN be lifted to restrictive healthcare services through the control of health facilities, and the introduction of a CoN would be a "huge step backwards" in technological technologies. She noted, however, that although questions could be raised about the recommendations of the Ministerial Advisory Committee, the National Department of Health was little to address concerns or the impact of redistribution on both existing and new establishments.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

RMI to unbundle Discovery & Momentum Metropolitan stakes

Rand Merchant Investment (RMI) announced plans to unbundle its large stakes in Discovery and Momentum Metropolitan to its shareholders. Discovery **Sunday** 26 September 2021. RMI is currently the largest shareholder in both companies, owning 25% of Discovery and 27% of Momentum Metropolitan. Following the unbundling, RMI shareholders will hold shares in these companies directly.

PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS

Pfizer booster shows positive results against Covid-19

US pharmaceutical giant in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website, Pfizer and Biontech jointly developed the vaccine and SA's regulator has not yet ruled out the variant. "vaccine protective against Covid-19 infection seems approximately 6 to 8 months after the second dose, and a booster dose of the vaccine seems to lead to a strong of daytime immune response over time", Jofori that the Delta variant.

Giving a third dose to people older than 65 was associated with 95% effectiveness against testing positive for Covid-19, starting at least a week after the booster. Pfizer also said it would be seeking authorisation for a booster dose for people aged 16 and older people, showing that a month after the third dose, levels of the protective antibodies were more than triple what they had been a month after the second shot.

Shortage of J&J jabs hangers SA's vaccination programme

A shortage of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines is slowing down the country's vaccination programme, Sisonke Msimang, Vaccine Lead for Africa, said. Because of the two-step Pfizer vaccines available, however, the shortage of J&J vaccines has effected the vaccination programme in remote rural areas and other sites where a single dose is ideal. Msimang said that the J&J vaccine is ideal for people who are difficult to reach or in a dose size in October, according to Nicholas Crisp, Deputy Director General of Health.

GENERAL NEWS

No jab, No job

"Business has Sports Minister (SRSA), which is made up of Business Unity SA and the Black Business Council and was formed to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, has proposed that employers should implement a vaccine mandate in SA."

reported **Daily Maverick** 27 September 2021.

No jab? No job?

BUSA chair, Martin Kingston, said big business has agreed to start 'substantive' discussions with the government on the issue of mandatory vaccinations, which stifled out The discussions will involve business, labour, government and community representatives at formal negotiation structures.

- ***Kingston said if an employee does not want to be vaccinated, the employer is obliged to engage with the employee to find out why. If the employee still has a fear, the employer has the right to overbear the fear, that process with the employee, and if the employee still refuses, then it is a dismissal issue.***

Meanwhile, the Minister of Employment and Labour, Thulas Nxesi, has left it to employers/employees to conduct a Covid-19 risk assessment in the workplace and implement health and safety standards, which will allow them to determine whether vaccine mandates are needed. Nxesi **Sunday** 26 September 2021.

Click on the button below to view read:
The Citizen 27 September "Kingston: Health of workers is above human rights"

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'Learning without blame may improve patient safety'

"Nine in ten UK doctors believe health care professionals must be able to admit errors, apologise and learn from mistakes without fear of blame, but fear of blame and criminal charges is the extent of an adverse incident will in the UK, a survey shows.

"This is according to a survey of 506 doctors conducted by the Medical Protection Society (MPS), which represents 35,000 healthcare professionals in the UK." reported **Bhoyrul** (13 September 2021).

Dr Graham Hesketh, head of MPS medical services, Africa said: "The MPS is calling on healthcare leaders, hospitals, government and individual clinicians to take active steps to ensure that the lessons from patient safety incidents are learned and implemented in order to prevent future harm and learn from mistakes without fear of personal consequences."

"This would prevent recurring errors and improve patient safety. The increase in transparency now needs help to reduce the number of patient safety incidents and protecting health against healthcare professionals when something goes wrong." said Hesketh.

Pandemic sends ADHD symptoms into overdrive

The increase of up to 50% in time spent in front of screens since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a "significant" increase in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder symptoms. – **Times Live** (15 September 2021).

Psychiatrist Prof Renato Schatzmann, convener of the ADHD Special Interest Group of the SA Society of Psychiatrists, said that the Canadian Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Centre of Excellence in Montreal, Canada, this of said UK pandemic is developing of ADHD symptoms associated with excessive screen time and lack of exercise.

ADHD

There has also been a rise in the number of adults seeking treatment for ADHD, Schatzmann Eczema screen time, either watching TV or using devices including laptops, mobile phones and tablets, has increased significantly during the pandemic and has contributed to problems with sleep, obesity, depression and anxiety. and Approximately 2.5% of adults.

ADHD is the most common psychiatric disorder in children, affecting 2 to 20 youngsters, and follows about 60% of them into adulthood, affecting about 1 million adults in SA.

Picking up the pace of healthcare innovation

The Covid-19 pandemic has galvanised the development of more than 130 health technology innovations that have been piloted or adopted in Africa at which nearly 40% were Information and Communication Technology (ICT) driven. 20% were digital health, 14% were ICT for health.

reported **Biocommunity** (20 September 2021).

According to Dr Benji Cyprian, director of business development at Wits Healthcare Innovation Hub, the pandemic has underscored the need for innovation in healthcare as possible in more quickly and safely is bringing new solutions to healthcare challenges is market.

For example:

- A clinic booking system developed by the WH for public health clinics which allows people to book appointments online and receive SMS reminders.
- Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre has partnered with WH and Medtech to build an health innovation and digital transformation strategy at the hospital

Coronavirus Update: (26 September 2021)

South Africa:	Worldwide:
Total cases reported: 2.8 m	Total cases reported: 219 m
Total deaths: 87 k	Total deaths: 4.6 m

The Delta Covid-19 variant was officially known as **B.1.617.2** and was first detected in **India** in December. **Of the** cases, only two positives recorded were **Prof. Tim Lucas** reports in the **Daily Maverick** that **the number of infections** rose **in the months**.

NEWS ON MEDICAL SCHEMES

'Fraudulent claims are bleeding the industry dry - GEMS'

According to the Government Employee Medical Scheme (GEMS), 30% biggest medical scheme for public servants. The country is losing R20 bn a year to fraud, waste and abuse in the healthcare industry, reported **Pauli** (25 September 2021).

GEMS' senior manager for operations and risk, Ishmael Mogapi, said the scheme recovered R1 billion last year from fraud. The scheme has also been financially hobbled by GPs, dentists, physiotherapists and registered nurses.

- Globally, it is estimated that about R4 trillion is lost through healthcare fraud.

Younger medical scheme members still wary of the jab

According to Mesothelioma Lawyer of Wisconsin's less than 40% of people who have received the Covid-19 vaccine. Medical schemes had been accelerated in SA.

However, more than half the members aged over 60 had been vaccinated. 37% of members aged 50 to 59, 23% in the age group 35 to 49, and 12% aged 18 to 34 had been vaccinated.

Afrocentric Group CEO, Ahmed Manickter said these statistics did not include data from medical aid members who vaccinate at public sector sites, reported **Pauli** (27 September 2021). Afrocentric Group and Medical Scheme Administrator Medshield stand to decline as people leave their employer and become self-employed. The exercise will work alongside employers close to them from their home to job closer home.

- Country-wide statistics, announced recently by Pres Cyril Ramaphosa, showed that just over seven million people had been fully vaccinated.

Momentum freezes hikes until September 2022

Momentum Medical Schemes announced that contribution increases will be held off until September 2022 for members of its medical schemes, Momentum Health, Fedhealth and the four months of 2022, which will effectively translate to a 2% increase for the year. Momentum Health CEO, Ashwin Trikamjee.

Although the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) recommended that medical aid companies limit their 2022 contribution increases to 4.2% or less, some cited the uncertainty of future Covid-19 claims made it hard to do so.

Fedhealth announced a 4.5% weighted average contribution increase across the scheme and Bonitas a 4.6% hike across all plans, but the premium on its Bonitas option plan will be 2.9%. Medshield's contributions will go up by 5.2%, and Key Health Medical Scheme by 4.5%.

Medical scheme crisis for post office staff

Report to the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies by Minister Mondli Gungubele, Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana, and Post Office Board Chairperson Ms Ndivhuho Mudzunga, that it was noting there pit-stopped a 3-year R6bn in a member contribution by the postal service.

CIRCULARS FROM THE CMS

The following circulars were published by the CMS in September 2021:

Circular 49 of 2021
Quarterly Balance Returns
Submission for 2021

Circular 50 of 2021
Induction Programme for Trustees

Circular 51 of 2021
CMS Web Portals

Circular 52 of 2021
Statement of Cash Flows

Circular 53 of 2021
Medical Scheme Benefit
Option Entitlement Survey

SPECIAL NOTES

Medical consulting rooms to let/share in Total

"Three consulting rooms available to share in a medical suite in the Total Centre. "The premises has excellent visibility in an upmarket area opposite Sandton City shopping centre. It also offers ample parking for patients and is within walking distance of a hospital." Hendry.

For more info:
Contact Steve Pathman (Total Centre)
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