

# NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

24 February 2023



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*We are the government of the people and we are interacting with Gauteng residents on a daily basis and we will stop at nothing in honouring our contract to serve them with honour and respect."*

**~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.**

## Collaborations with the private sector to tackle surgery backlogs

As part of continuous efforts to reduce surgery backlogs in the province, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) is exploring collaborations with private health institutions.

The Department has managed to reduce the surgeries backlog from 36 000 in November to 32 000 currently, with around 8000 surgeries carried out during that period.

The Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomntu Nkomo-Ralehoko gave an assurance that the GDoH is employing numerous measures to ensure that patients get the procedures

they are desperately waiting for. "In order to drastically address this challenge we are engaging with private

*"We are engaging with private healthcare providers to collaborate with us to eliminate the backlogs."*

healthcare providers to collaborate with us to eliminate the backlogs. This is but one of the many measures we are employing. Others include, but no limited to, our aggressive recruitment drive to ensure that we have the requisite skills across service platforms, surgical marathons on a weekly basis and the cluster system that allows for greater collaboration among facilities," states Nkomo-Ralehoko.

### FACTS ABOUT CHOLERA

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAS DIARRHOEA?**

Prepare a mixture of oral rehydration fluid for the person to drink. Boil 1 litre of water, add 8 teaspoons of sugar and half a teaspoon of salt and mix well.

Follow hand hygiene and food safety practices.

## First Cholera death recorded in Gauteng

The Gauteng province has recorded the first death related to the infectious Cholera diseases. The patient presented with profuse watery diarrhoea and was admitted at Tambo Memorial Hospital where his results confirmed positive status and sadly he passed away a few days later.

Currently, there are 5 confirmed cases in the province. Cholera mainly spreads through contaminated water. Symptoms include diarrhoea dehydration, vomiting and body weakness.

Members of the public who experience cholera-like symptoms, are encouraged immediately visit their nearest health facility for screening and testing to ensure early detection and successful treatment.

# MEASLES

**Lets protect our children against measles.**  
Visit your nearest Community Healthcare Centre or consent for your child to be immunised at their school.

**HOW IS CHOLERA SPREAD:**  
By drinking water or eating food that is infected with cholera bacteria. This happens when an infected person handles food without washing their hands, or relieves themselves into a water source. Communities using unclean water for drinking or washing of eating utensils are at risk.

Follow hand hygiene and food safety practices.

# Reduced accruals and improvement in 30-day payment are positive signs

Angie Mokgothu

The reduction in historic accruals and the steady improvement in the payment of suppliers within 30 days are signs that strategies employed by the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) to address these areas are beginning to have a positive impact.

At the beginning of the financial year the Department was sitting at a 32% payment rate and is now sitting at 40% in the 3rd quarter. The situation would be much better were it not of the challenge of settling accrual balances and unplanned Medico legal claims.

"All current invoices for services that are rendered to the GDoH are paid within the stipulated 30 days whilst accruals are serviced through payment arrangements with service providers," explains Acting Chief Financial Officer, Masibolekwe Ndima.

In the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year, the GDoH was sitting at R5.8 billion in accruals which has since come down to R1.8 billion in the third quarter of 2022/23 financial year.

Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko indicated that while the Department is making good progress on addressing its accruals she is still not pleased at the number of accruals and the rate at which suppliers are being paid.



*This is an area that affects the well-being of many suppliers as they depend on us to honour the contract we have with them to pay for services received. This is something we are working on changing for the better."*

*~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko*

"This is an area that affects the well-being of many suppliers as they depend on us to honour the contract we have with them to pay for services received. This is something we are working on changing for the better," committed the MEC.

Meanwhile, as part of the continued efforts to ensure payment of suppliers with the 30 days, GDoH together with the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development (GDID) convened a two-day Electronic Invoicing System payment workshop for infrastructure contractors and suppliers at Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital this week.

On the day, contractors and suppliers were trained on effective use of the system and compilation of required documents such as an appointment letter, access certificate, completion certificate, payment certificate and copy of the tax invoice.

The contractors and suppliers who attended the workshop were also taken through internal finance and supply chain management processes such as the generation of purchase orders, the goods receipt voucher (GRV) process and which key information must be included on the invoice.



## State of the Province Address taken to communities

Koketso Maraba

The Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has reassured residents of KwaTsaDuza (KwaThema, Tsakane and Duduza) of the provincial government's commitment to delivery quality services and improve their lives.

The MEC gave the assurance on Wednesday, 22 February, when addressing stakeholders at a post State of the Province (SoPA) Imbizo to unpack commitments and plans made by Premier Panyaza Lesufi when delivered the SoPA on Monday.

Amongst others, commitments made include: the acceleration of Gauteng's economic recovery and reconstruction, declaring war on crime and corruption, changing the lives of communities in townships, informal settlements and hostels (TISH), improve government communication for better engagement with the public and improve health and wellness of communities.

"One of the commitments that Premier has made is through the Township Economic Development Act, we are going to use 60% of the R34 billion goods and services budget to support township

businesses. We will also roll-out an integrated biometrics system which will minimise queues and allow patients to access their medical records at any healthcare facility," explained the MEC.

She further encouraged community members who are taking chronic medication to join the Dablap Meds programme previously known as Central Chronic Medicine Dispense and Distribution to have their chronic medication delivered to facilities close to their homes.

In his State of the Province Address, Premier Lesufi announced the deployment of mobile health clinics with doctors and nurses to 6 hostels from 1 April 2023. Already, the Gauteng Department of Health has been visiting TISH communities to provide a basket of services and assist in the establishment of food gardens at health institutions.

"Together with the Department of Agriculture, we are establishing food gardens at clinics and hospitals these facilities play an important role in communities and are central to the campaign to encourage the public to lead healthy lifestyles and they assist patients access the community food gardens for sustenance" added MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

"I am grateful for the MEC's visit to the area because she has addressed the issue of poverty by mentioning the establishment of food gardens. It shows that the provincial government understands that people battle to take their medication because they do not have food to eat. Assisting people with establishing food gardens will help," said one of the residents from KwaThema, Anna Cina.

# Improvement of clinical outcomes paramount for Gauteng Health



The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) continues without fail to render clinical services as a backbone of the health system.

Over 1.2 million clients in Gauteng are currently on antiretroviral therapy treatment (ART), whilst the adult viral load suppression rate is at 91% and child viral load suppression remains at 65%. MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko attributed the continued low suppression rate amongst children to inconsistent check-ups and poor attendance by care givers resulting in missed doses and treatment interruptions.

"Our community healthcare workers are constantly tracing clients who have defaulted on ART and ensure that they are put back on treatment and given the necessary support they need," said the MEC.

The Department has conducted 5 014 704 HIV tests from April 2021 – March 2022 and 3 985 373 HIV tests from April 2022 – December 2022. Significant progress has been made to distribute medication among chronic patients and taking medication closer to their area of preference.

"There were 1 085 232 clients enrolled on the Dablap Meds Programme during the 2021/22 and by end of December 2022, 1 118 599 clients were enrolled," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

In addition, Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the Ideal Clinics and Ideal Hospitals realisation is critical for demonstrating an organisation that embraces universal health care coverage principles. "As at end of December 2022, 364 of 368 assessed facilities obtained the ideal clinic status making the ideal clinic realisation rate of 96.7% during 2022/23 financial year.

Furthermore, a total of 150 clinics were assessed by the Office of Health Standards and Compliance (OHSC) and 104 were certified. Among the three Hospitals that were assessed, Mamelodi Hospital has been certified.

Meanwhile, the Department had added two more Community Health Centres (CHCs) to provide healthcare services outside office hours and giving care to those who need it the most on a 24-hour basis.

"As part of improving access to healthcare, 38 CHCs are now offering 24-hour services and these services include amongst others Maternity and Emergency Services. This is an improvement from the 36 CHCs that were offering these services in the previous financial year," pointed MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.



## Living a healthy lifestyle can help prevent long-term illnesses.

For more information: TB Hotline: 24-hour 0800 428 8364 Gauteng Health Department

082 601 1000 @gautenghealth

hotline@gauteng.gov.za Gauteng Department of Health



## 938 unclaimed and unidentified bodies at Gauteng mortuaries

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) is calling on families and relatives of missing persons to visit Forensic Pathology Services (FPS) mortuaries in the province to check if their loved ones are not part of the unclaimed and unidentified bodies.

There are over 938 unclaimed and unidentified bodies across 11 FPS mortuaries that families and relatives have not come forth to claim. The FPS mortuaries include Bronkhorstspruit (8), Ga-Rankuwa (69), Pretoria (263), Germiston (127), Heidelberg (9), Sebokeng (94), Springs (49), Carletonville (45), Diepkloof (49), Johannesburg (187) and Roodepoort (38).

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said that it is concerning that the

number of unclaimed and identified bodies is increasing by the day.

"There are families who have been looking for their loved ones not knowing where they are. We encourage them to visit FPS mortuaries to check if their loved ones are not part of the unclaimed bodies, and if that is the case, they can give them a proper burial," said the MEC.

A family member or relative who wishes to identify their loved one should have their original Identity Document (ID), ID of the deceased or birth certificate if the deceased is a child. If the deceased is a foreign national, a passport, asylum seeker certificate or a letter from country of origin confirming who the

*Families encouraged to visit government mortuaries to identify unclaimed bodies."*

deceased is and to whom the remains should be handed over to is needed.

Once a body of a deceased is not identified or claimed within seven days finger prints are sent to the Criminal Record Centre and Home Affairs. The results are then shared with the South African Police Service as the deceased body belong to the SAPS who must give a go ahead for a pauper's burial.

When the identity of the deceased is now known, the Gauteng FPS make efforts such publishing the names on media platforms and where possible visiting the addresses provided to inform the relatives or the public about the unclaimed bodies in order to afford families the closure they need after the passing of a family member.

Communities are advised to always update their home addresses with the Department of Home Affairs whenever they relocate as this makes it easier to trace relatives in situations like these. Families and relatives should note that bodies that stay at FPS mortuaries for more than 30 days without being claimed, are then prepared to be buried as paupers at grave sites across the province.

# Renal unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath receives a major boost

Thulasizwe Simelane & Lerato Sedulawesi



As part of continuous efforts to improve access to care for patients with kidney failure and are awaiting transplant, the Renal Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital has this week received five additional dialysis machines.

Commenting about the latest development, the operational manager at the hospital's Renal Unit, Edith Hangana, said the delivery of the additional machines has brought a sense of relief to both the patients receiving treatment and has improved staff morale.

Previously, patients on dialysis were forced to present at the hospital in the wee hours to undergo kidney dialysis, allowing for the accommodation of a significant number people to get the treatment.

"The allocation more dialysis machines will allow our team to provide dialysis to more patients accessing the service at the hospital. These machines will not only service day patients but those who are admitted as well," said Hangana.

Meanwhile, Sebokeng Hospital has established a renal unit kidney disease support group. This comes after a realisation that many patients, particularly those who are newly diagnosed with kidney failure, are struggling to accept and manage with their circumstances.


The support group is for all renal patients, their families, friends and all caregivers. Those in attendance are able to open up and share on their experiences, challenges and coping mechanisms.



**QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTACT US!**



For any hospital or clinic complaints please contact the Gauteng Department of Health on the 24-hour customer line on.

-  0800 203 886 (Toll free number)
-  [patients.health@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:patients.health@gauteng.gov.za) or [support@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:support@gauteng.gov.za)
-  SMS : 35023

Good morning Sr Gorry

I would like to say thank you so much for the way my complaint was handled. I called and complained that my sister was referred by Winnie Mandela Clinic around 15:00 and I was told that till this morning no Doctor checked her.

Sister Gorry assisted me with my complaint in a professional way and I can say she put herself in my shoes. Sister Merriam called me to give me feedback and progress of my sister in detail. I was so happy with what was explained to me. We need more people like them that will not ignore concerns of patients in my language we say 'tswelang pele le dira gabotse e seke yaba gona fela le go ba bangwe le dire bjalo'.

Thank you so much, keep up the good work.  
C. Aphone, on behalf of S. Aphone - Tembisa Hospital.

Firstly, I want to appreciate the presentation that was presented by Mrs Mahlangu here at Far East Rand Hospital. I would like to suggest that the hospital install TVs, and ceiling speakers and record messages that will direct patients in all language that they will understand.

Suggestion by: C. Jele  
- Far East Rand Hospital

Dear Ward 4 personel and doctors

Thank you for your care, compassion and professionalism. Your friendliness and hospitality will always be fondly remembered. May you always be blessed in your passion to better the lives of others in a profound way. You are much appreciated!

Mamelodi Regional Hospital Patient

\* Letter grammatically edited

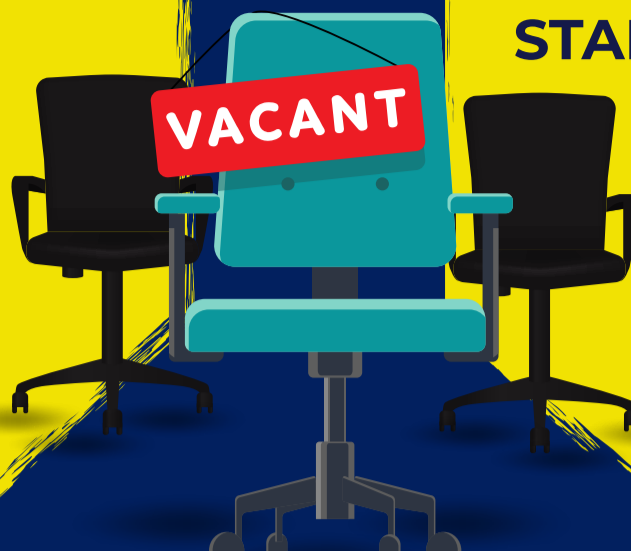
For more information on Gauteng Department of Health, Programmes, News and other information, visit our social media pages:

 Gauteng Health Department

   @gautenghealth

 Gauteng Department of Health

# WE ARE HIRING



**BECOME PART OF A  
PATIENT-CENTRED  
CLINICIAN-LED  
STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN  
HEALTH  
CARE SERVICE**

**APPLY!**

## GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

<b>Lecturer PND-1 / PND-2</b> - Gauteng College of Nursing
<b>Medical Officer Grade 1</b> - Helen Joseph Hospital
<b>Operational Manager General Stream</b> - Helen Joseph Hospital
<b>Messenger Level 2</b> - Helen Joseph Hospital
<b>Material Recording Clerk</b> - Helen Joseph Hospital
<b>Lecturer: Student Affairs Professional Officer PND 1/2 GCON</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus
<b>Lecturer: Quality Assurance Officer PND 1/2 GCON</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus
<b>Lecturer: Post graduate diploma in emergency nursing (R.635)</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus
<b>Operator (Non- earthmoving)</b> - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
<b>Senior Clinical Manager Grade 1</b> (Re-advertisement) - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
<b>Lecturer For Health Science Dynamics And Health Science Research (R.635) PND 1/2 GCON</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus
<b>Occupational Therapy Technician</b> - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
<b>Medical Specialist Grade 1 (ENT) N</b> - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
<b>Financial Controller</b> - Dr. Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
<b>Human Resources Clerk</b> - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
<b>Administration Clerk Level 5</b> - JHB Health District (Hillbrow CHC X 2, Tshepisoong Clinic X1, Alexandra CHC X1, Diepsloot South X 1)
<b>Cleaner / Household Worker Level 2</b> - JHB Health District ( Alexandra CHC X 2, Tshepisoong Clinic X1, Diepsloot South Clinic X1, Orchards Clinic X1 And Discoverers CHC X1)
<b>Senior Administration Clerk Level 7</b> - JHB Health District (Hillbrow CHC)
<b>Network Controller Level 7</b> (Re-Advertised) - JHB Health District
<b>Lecturer: Post Graduate Diploma In Oncology And Palliative Care Nursing (R.635) PND 1/2 (1 POST) GCON</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus

<b>Lecturer: Post Graduate Diploma In Primary Care Nursing (R.635) PND 1/2 (2 POSTS) GCON</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus
<b>Operational Manager Nursing Specialty Stream</b> - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
<b>Medical Technologist Grade 1</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
<b>Clinical Technologist Grade 1</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHCAH)
<b>Medical Specialist Grade1</b> (1 Post) - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
<b>Administration Clerk</b> - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
<b>Clinical Technologist Grade 1</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
<b>Chief Audiologist Grade 1 (Paediatric)</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
<b>Medical Registrar</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
<b>Medical Officer Grade 1</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
<b>Medical Specialist Grade 1</b> - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
<b>Operational Manager: Speciality: PN-B3 (Neonatal / Paediatric Department)</b> - Edenvale Regional Hospital
<b>Head Of Department: Academic (R.635) PND 3 (Post 1) GCON</b> - Rahima Moosa Campus
<b>Operational Manager General</b> - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
<b>Operational Manager Specialty</b> - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
<b>Operational Manager Nursing (Specialty Unit)</b> - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
<b>Professional Nurse Speciality</b> - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
<b>Medical Specialist Grade 1</b> (Three (3) year training Fellowship in Cardiology, and the candidate will be expected to write the Certificate in Cardiology) - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

### DON'T BE A VICTIM OF BURSARY SCAMS AND FAKE JOBS ADVERTS!

Individuals looking at applying for government jobs, bursaries and learning opportunities should consider tips below:

- Search for opportunities on verified government platforms including social media platforms, websites and adverts through reliable newspapers, e.g. the Gauteng e-Recruitment System (Professional Job Centre), Department of Public Service Administration (DPSA) vacancy circular.
- Always follow instructions carefully and fill in Z83 with precision.
- Students who want to study towards a Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care (one year) or Diploma in Emergency Medical Care (two years) at Legbone College of Emergency Care. For more info visit: <https://lcoec.ac.za>
- Study towards a Diploma in nursing in various specialties including critical care nursing, trauma and emergency nursing, amongst others at the Gauteng College of Nursing. For more info, please call: 011 644 8946



**NOTE:** Applications should be submitted strictly online at the following E-Recruitment portal: <http://professionaljobcenter.gpg.gov.za>. No hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted.

**NB:** For assistance with online applications please e-mail your query to [e-recruitment@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:e-recruitment@gauteng.gov.za).