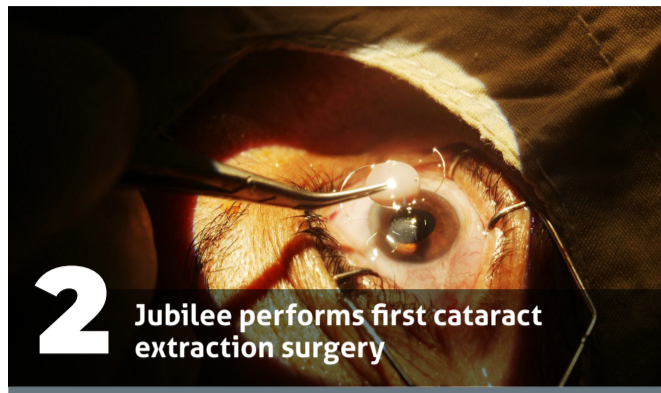


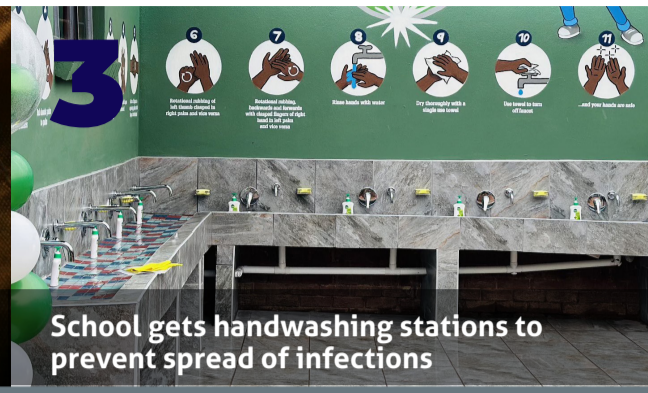
NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

22 OCTOBER 2023



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The hospital is committed to ensuring that patients receive the quality life-saving health services closer to where they live. And we vow to ensure the reduction of occurrences of mortality and morbidity of traumatic brain injury patients in Springs and surrounding areas.”
- Sonwabo Lindani

Far East Rand Hospital performs first cranioplasty operation

Phumza Ntuthuka

A 38-year-old woman who was on the waiting list to undergo cranioplasty in 2024 became the first patient on Wednesday (18 October) to have the surgical procedure performed on her at the newly established Far East Rand Regional Hospital's Neurosurgery Department.

She was scheduled to have the cranioplasty operation - a surgical procedure to repair skull fractures or deformities, at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH). Far East Rand used to refer patients in need of neurological services to the CMJAH.

This breakthrough is set to benefit the community of Springs and surrounding areas which include Brakpan, Daveyton, Duduza, Tsakane and Kwa-Thema amongst others, who are in need of neurological services.

They will now get life-saving procedures at the back of their yards as Far East Rand has been capacitated to offer specialised services inhouse and treat patients with diseases of the brain and spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles.

The neurosurgery operation is a step forward by the Gauteng Department of Health in reducing patient waiting times for this critical and high demand services.

The Head of Surgery at CMJAH, Prof Thifhelimbilu Luvhengo said the opening of the Neurosurgery Department at Far East Rand is exciting for the people of Ekurhuleni at large.

“We are challenging this institution to ensure that it becomes a centre of excellence for neurological services. We will ensure that it receives all the necessary support to strengthen excellency in this discipline,” said Prof Luvhengo.

This ground-breaking milestone follows the recent medical advancements made by Sebokeng Regional Hospital which introduced neurological services and successfully performed three brain surgeries within its first week operating.



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko showed appreciation to the food services staff at Kopanong Hospital in Vereeniging this week while conducting a service delivery oversight visit and assessing the progress of refurbishments at the hospital's Psychiatric Ward.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

“The hospital is committed to ensuring that patients receive the quality life-saving health services closer to where they live. And we vow to ensure the reduction of occurrences of mortality and morbidity of traumatic brain injury patients in Springs and surrounding areas.

“Many patients with head injuries in this area who have been on the waiting list will now be attended sooner than they expected,” said Sonwabo Lindani, the CEO of Far East Rand

Jubilee performs first cataract extraction surgery

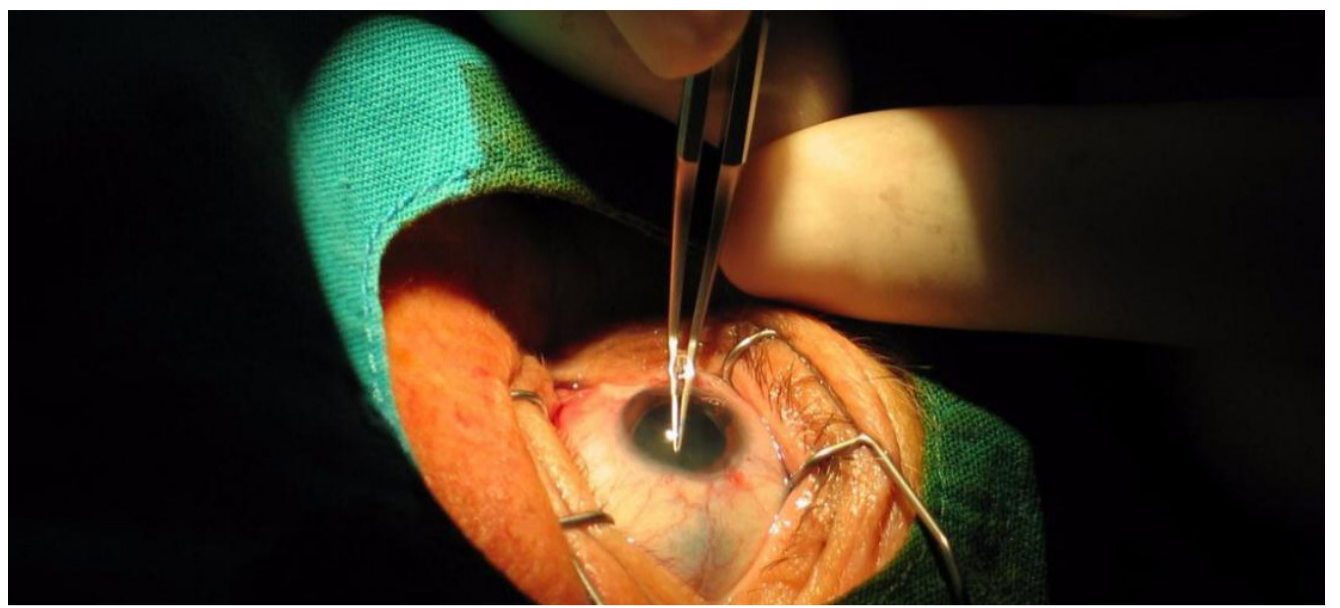
Moses Seete

Jubilee District Hospital has joined a number of Gauteng public hospitals that continue to transform the lives of patients by successfully performing medical procedures that are above their designated level of service.

The facility has for the first time in its history performed six successful cataract extraction surgeries as part of efforts to bring health services normally performed at regional, tertiary and specialised hospitals closer to communities.

A cataract extraction is a quick and painless surgery to remove a cloudy lens that is causing visual impairment and replace it with an artificial one. The procedure has restored dignity to hundreds of patients whose day to day activities such as seeing the sunrise or reading a book have been impacted by their medical condition.

Previously, Jubilee referred patients in need of cataract extraction surgeries to Dr George



The district hospital will now perform the eye surgeries every week on Tuesdays to address patient waiting times and relieve pressure on DGMAH.

Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMAH). This resulted in many patients in need of this transformative procedure in Hammanskraal and surrounding areas having to wait for longer periods to undergo the surgery.

Dr Dasual Lesola, lead surgeon and Ophthalmologist who successfully performed the procedures together with the theatre team said that the district hospital will now perform the eye surgeries every week on Tuesdays to address patient waiting times and relieve pressure on DGMAH.

"Initially, we had booked for 10 patients, unfortunately three (3) of them did not make it as they gave valid reasons for not showing up. Seven (7) came through, however, we had to cancel one due to medical reasons and they have been scheduled for another appointment when the patient's medical condition is stabilised.

"We are grateful to DGMAH for availing some of the medical equipment we do not have yet as a district hospital to successfully perform these surgical procedures," said Lesola.

Other facilities which have recently improved their service offerings include Sebokeng Hospital and Far East Rand Hospital.



Charlotte Maxeke leads the way in biliary atresia awareness

Tabudi Madisha

Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand has once again led a ground-breaking initiative in South Africa. For the first time in the history of public health a Biliary Atresia Awareness Campaign was launched by the hospital on 16 October 2023.

Biliary atresia is a condition in infants in which the bile ducts outside and inside the liver are scarred and blocked. This results in bile not flowing into the intestine, builds up in the liver and damages it. The damage leads to scarring, loss of liver tissue, function and cirrhosis.

The awareness campaign which will now be observed on 16 October every year aims to

raise vital awareness and provide robust support for children affected by Biliary Atresia across the country.

As this initiative is the first of its kind in the country, representatives from both the National and Provincial Department of Health were present to endorse the launch.

During the event, a National poster for Biliary Atresia Awareness was unveiled and it will now be used nationwide to raise awareness about Biliary Atresia and improve the health condition of children impacted by the condition.

According to Dr Christina Hajinicolaou, Paediatric Gastroenterologist and Head of the Division of Paediatric Gastroenterology at Wits University,

in 2021 there was a 40% overall success in treating Biliary Atresia.

"One of the reasons which led to Biliary Atresia not being properly treated is a lack of information and knowledge. Some parents do not seek medical advice immediately when they see the signs and hope it is just a normal illness which will go away.

"It is important that parents of infants immediately seek medical advice when they see symptoms such as yellow eyes, jaundice longer than 14-21 days after birth, white stool from birth, yellow or darker skin and dark urine", explained Dr Hajinicolaou.

CMJAH CEO, Gladys Bogoshi, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders involved in ensuring that this ground-breaking initiative is a success.

"Alone we can do very little, but together we can move mountains. Today is proof that by working together we can do so much. This success is a result of a team effort from all stakeholders involved. As the CEO, I would like to appreciate and thank all of you for a job well done," said Bogoshi.

It is important that parents of infants immediately seek medical advice when they see symptoms such as yellow eyes, jaundice longer than 14-21 days after birth, white stool from birth, yellow or darker skin and dark urine."
~Dr Hajinicolaou.

School gets handwashing stations to prevent spread of infections

Koketso Maraba

Teachers at Kgabo Primary School in Saulsville near Atteridgeville in Tshwane can now focus solely on teaching without worrying about the spread of infectious diseases among learners.

Thanks to the collaboration between the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH), Department of Education, Triple Eight and Dettol South Africa, a newly renovated hand washing station has been handed to the school. The station will improve hand hygiene among learners and help curb the spread of infections which include, amongst others, bacterial, diarrheal and respiratory diseases.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko extended her appreciation to the partners for their extraordinary actions in enhancing hygiene awareness in many schools across various townships.

"The tireless commitment to renovate toilets and hand-washing stations for the learners here serves as a beacon of hope and shows dedication to the health and prosperity of generations yet to come. These kinds of initiatives are not only affording children the means to practice



These kinds of initiatives are not only affording children the means to practice good hygiene but are also cultivating a culture of health consciousness that will serve them throughout their lives."
- MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

good hygiene but are also cultivating a culture of health consciousness that will serve them throughout their lives," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Ensuring that schools attended by learners from townships, informal settlements and hostel communities have the necessary tools to practice good hand hygiene practices is part of the GDoH's efforts to reduce the burden of diarrhea in South Africa by 50% by 2027.

Many learners pass on infections such as common cold and flu when good hygiene is not practiced. Dettol and a team from the GDoH educated the learners at Kgabo Primary School on how to wash their hands using the new hand-washing stations.

The school also received a mobile hand washing station which will be used during events to initiate a habit of hand-washing among learners.

Pharmacy resilience in an era of disruption

Disruptions in the healthcare service environment are inevitable. Therefore this calls for the healthcare sector to always explore ways to respond to various forms of disruptions that have the potential to impact on how the public access services.

It is with this in mind that movers and shakers in the pharmaceutical industry gathered for two days (19-20 October 2023) at the Gauteng Annual Pharmaceutical Services Conference under the theme "Pharmacy Resilience in an Era of Disruption".

The conference saw participants grappling with the impact of technological advances, policy changes such as the National Health Insurance and inadequate resources and skills in the pharmacy profession which are a driving factor during disruptions. Lessons drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic period were also explored. Representatives from facilities presented best practice case studies on how they have individually implemented solutions to deal



with queue management and easy access to medication by patients.

Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko in her address to the conference called on the participants to institute a comprehensive approach which will streamline workflows, optimise resource allocation and explore technological solutions to expedite prescription processing.

"By addressing these pertinent concerns within our hospital pharmacies, we are not only enhancing the overall patient experience but also solidifying our standing as a healthcare institution dedicated to excellence in care delivery.

"It is through these focused endeavours that we will fortify the foundation of our pharmaceutical services in the Department, thus ensuring it remains a cornerstone of quality healthcare provision in our community. Together, we must embark on the journey towards improved service delivery, cementing our commitment to the well-being of our patients," said the MEC.

The conference was hosted by the Department's Pharmaceutical and Clinical Support Services and was attended by pharmacists from Gauteng hospitals, the South African Pharmacy Council, development partners and pharmaceutical industry players who got an opportunity to showcase the latest solutions they have for the public and for institutions.



Government collaborates with ParkrunSA to promote healthy lifestyles

The National Department of Health and the Gauteng Provincial Government will on Saturday, 28 October join hands with ParkrunSA to promote healthy lifestyles through regular physical activities. This is in line with the strategy for the prevention and management of obesity in South Africa.

Parkrun is a free, community event where people walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate every weekend (mostly on Saturdays) morning in various locations around the country. There are currently over 150 parkrun events/sites organised around the country taking place every weekend.

The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo will lead the community mobilisation and will be joined by Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko; MEC for Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Morakane Mosupye, local councillors and senior officials from Parkrun South Africa will join and participate in the programme of the day which will involve physical activities.

Overweight and obesity are serious health problems in South Africa that significantly contributes to non-communicable diseases as

well as being associated with a higher risk of death and disability from these diseases. The Department in 2022 launched the National Strategic Plan on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, 2022 – 2027 to respond as a matter of urgency toward the prevention and control of NCDs, risk factors and mental health conditions.

For participation in parkrun in your community, people can register free on the website (www.parkrun.co.za). The parkrun will take place at 08:00 at Mofolo Park in Soweto, Johannesburg on Saturday, 28 October 2023.



MATTERS TO US!



Impressed by quality of service

Good morning.

Please pass my sincere gratitude to MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.

She has really improved the quality and status of public health in Gauteng.

On Wednesday while I was in a meeting, my face was swollen and I immediately went to the nearest clinic in Boksburg Civic Centre Clinic and they referred me to Tambo Memorial Hospital.

Wow! Cleanliness on point, customer care number one! One did not even spend 30 minutes at the hospital casualty.

I was treated with utmost respect and emergency regarding my situation. Blood tests and blood were taken and they detected some abnormalities. I was immediately rushed to do an X Ray and a CT Scan

The result came out that I was really sick and private hospitals could not detect this as I had gone for a similar check-up before. The hospital prescribed and dispensed the best medication to me.

I'm healed. Thanks for her (MEC) to change the face of health services. I am an advocate for positive results. She must keep up the Good work.

Blessed Sunday.
From: Ntuthu

* Letter grammatically edited

QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTACT US!



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

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

For letters, contribution and suggestion contact GDoHstories@gauteng.gov.za
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