

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

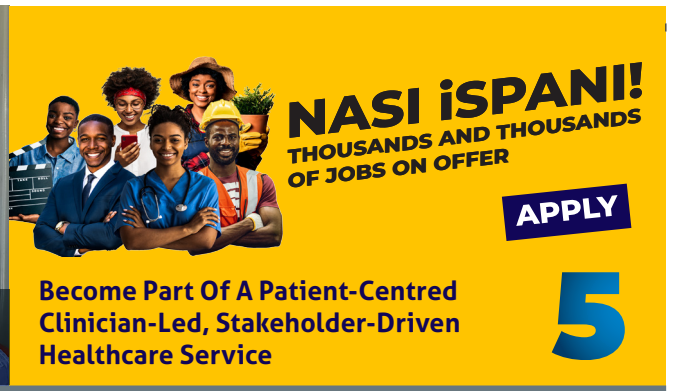
18 FEBRUARY 2024



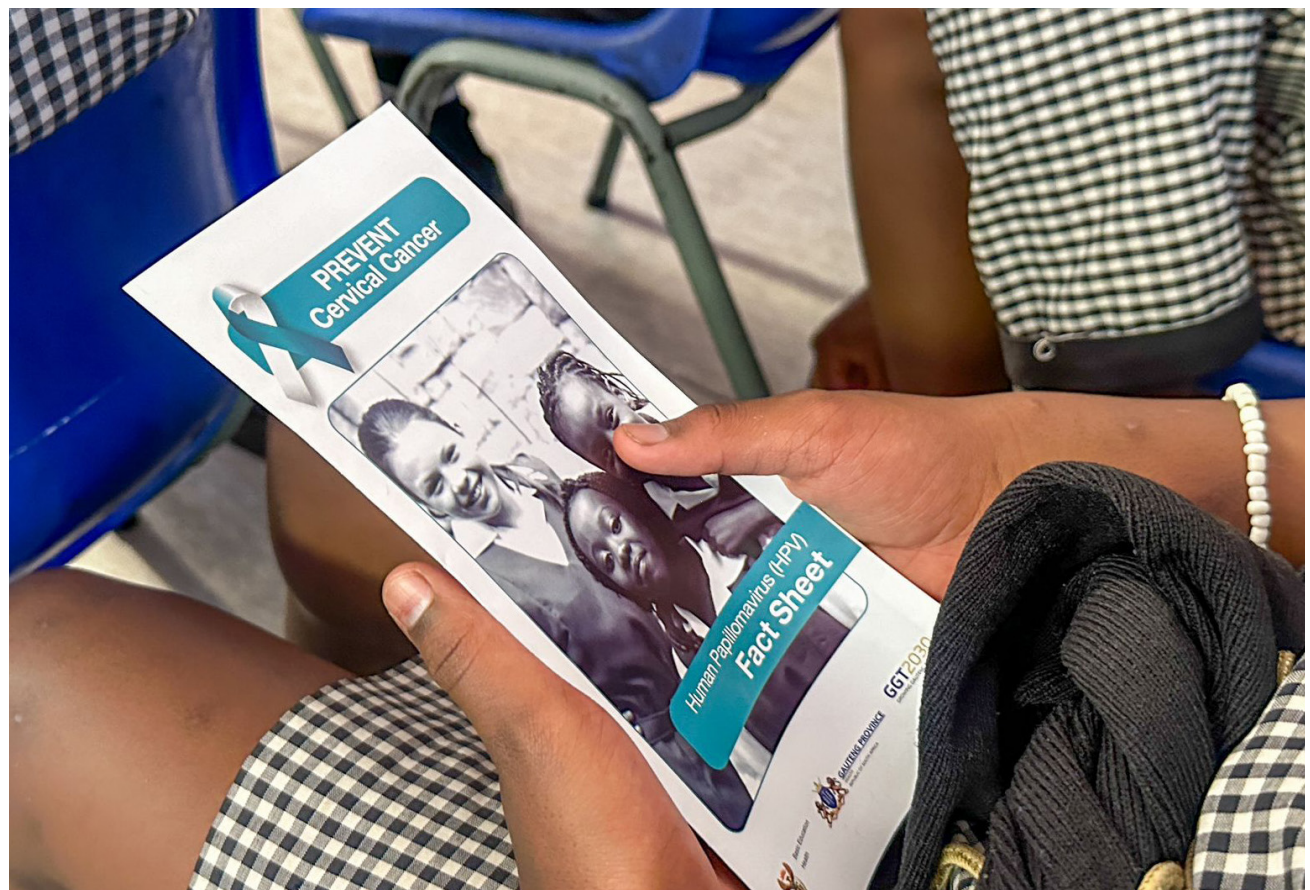
2 New vehicles to improve efficiency in the integrated school health programme



3 Youth friendly services across 279 clinics in Gauteng



5 Become Part Of A Patient-Centred Clinician-Led, Stakeholder-Driven Healthcare Service



In order to ensure that girls are and remain protected against cervical cancer later in life, it is important that they get the HPV vaccine between the ages of 9 and 15, before they are sexually active."

Combating cervical cancer a single dose at a time

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), after breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common and leading cause of cancer deaths among women in South Africa, particularly among adolescents and women aged 15 to 44.

Over 70% of cervical cancer cases are caused by the infection to the cervix (mouth of the womb) by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is sexually transmitted. In the country, more than 5 000 new cases are reported every year and most are fatal.

In order to ensure that girls are and remain protected against cervical cancer later in life, it is important that they get the HPV vaccine between the ages of 9 and 15, before they are sexually active.

To effect this life-saving approach, the Gauteng Department of Health is currently running the HPV vaccination first round campaign in all public primary and special schools in Gauteng which commenced on 05 February and will end on 20 March 2024.

The campaign is mainly targeted at Grade 5 girls aged from 9 years and above, and are vaccinated with a single dose of the Cervarix HPV Vaccine which is very safe and effective in preventing the HPV infection caused by type 16 and 18 HPV strains.

During the previous vaccination drive in September to October 2023, a total of 74 359 out of 87 910 (84.6%) Grade 5 girls were fully vaccinated with HPV 2nd dose vaccine. Those girls who were not yet 9-years-old or were absent during the campaign will be given their catchup single doses. Unlike in the previous years, the vaccine is now administered in a single dose instead of two.

The MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko appealed to parents, caregivers and legal guardians who have not yet signed the consent form to do so to ensure that their children do not miss out on the HPV single dose vaccination campaign.

"We wish to appeal to those who had not signed the consent to think about the long-term implications of not having their children immunised. By giving consent, you are taking a responsible step to ensure that we save the future of our girls, a single dose at a time," pleaded the MEC.

A mother of an eligible girl child aged 9, Matshidiso Luta (39) from Vereeniging, who is also a cervical cancer survivor said that she was pleased that she received the consent form and gave permission for the school health team to administer the HPV vaccine on her daughter.

"I feel very blessed and relieved knowing that



Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness and Convener of Faith-Based-Organisations sector on behalf of the provincial government, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko leading the initiative to increase Palliative Care Services in hospitals during a training session held at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital on Thursday, 15 February 2024.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

my daughter will get the HPV vaccine to protect her against cervical cancer. I do not want to see her go through the same stressful, difficult and painful time I went through during my battle with the disease," said Luta.

A consent form that is signed and ticked on all the boxes at the beginning of the year is used for routine comprehensive Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) and is valid for the whole year. ISHP includes school health screening (eye health, hearing, oral assessment, nutritional assessments, deworming) and onsite health services.

Vehicles to improve efficiency in Integrated School Health Programme

Newly acquired Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) vehicles will improve the provision of comprehensive health services and support learning through identifying and addressing health barriers that may affect learners in schools.

This comes after MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko handed over seven (7) new ISHP vehicles as part of efforts to school health teams on Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at Entuthukweni Primary School in Kagiso, Krugersdorp.

The ISHP focuses on screening for barriers that affect effective learning and teaching such as vision, hearing, oral hygiene, physical and mental health.

"These vehicles are going to address the poor coverage of health programmes targeting the



school community. Our School Health Teams will now be easily accessible and mobile to provide regular health screening and education which includes health education and health promotion through fun and games," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The vehicles are allocated to the five district health services in accordance with the current need per district as follows Johannesburg (2), Tshwane (1), Ekurhuleni (1), West Rand (1) and Sedibeng (2).

The Gauteng Department of Health aims to increase the number of the ISHP vehicles across the districts

to 27 by adding an additional 20 to the 7 in the next financial year, depending on budget availability.

In addition, the MEC also took the time to oversee school health nurses administering the single dose Human Papillomavirus vaccine on Grade 5 girls aged 9 and above, to protect them against cervical cancer later in life.

The HPV vaccination campaign is currently underway in all Public Primary Schools and Special Schools from 05 February 2024 and until 20 March 2024.

Epilepsy Awareness

Treatment of Epilepsy

Seizures can be controlled. People living with epilepsy can become seizure free with appropriate use of anti-seizure medicines.

Visit your nearest clinic if you're suffering from seizures



Breast cancer patients in the East of Ekurhuleni can now get treatment closer

Phumza Ntuthuka

The Far East Rand Hospital has brought hope to many breast cancer patients living in Springs and surrounding areas who had to travel to other health facilities to access treatment.

This comes after the hospital earlier this month (9 February) opened doors to its Breast Clinic which provides screening and treatment services for breast cancer patients. These services include mammography, CT scans and treatment modalities according to patient's staging. The hospital will also give oral treatment and for the advanced cancer where chemo-radiation therapy is needed, patients will be booked with Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH).

Julia Zikalala, one of the breast cancer patients at the clinic applauded the hospital for bringing the

services closer.

"The opening of this clinic has brought so much relief to many patients in need of breast cancer treatment. Previously, we had to be seen in other hospitals which was exhausting as we had to spend most of the time on the road and money we did not have to get treatment," said Zikalala.

The opening of this clinic will ensure that breast cancer patients in Springs and surrounding areas adhere to treatment as many people on many occasions, fail to stick to the regime as they cannot travel to other facilities to access the medication. It will also improve access to preventing and screening services, ensuring that breast cancer is detected early for optimal treatment options.

Far East Rand Hospital is the only public health facility with a Breast Clinic in Ekurhuleni. This likely

benefit patients beyond its catchment area as many will be referred from neighboring institutions.

The clinic will be supported by Prof Jenny Edge, Head of Breast Unit at CMJAH, who will work with radiologists and surgeons at the hospital.

"One of the challenges in Breast Cancer treatment is late presentation by patients. A multi-disciplinary treatment of Breast Cancer is important, this includes commitment from patients. We are excited that many people with easy access to this area will have immediate to screening services," said Prof Edge.

It is important to know one's breast, the look, size, shape and feel as it is important in detection of cancer. Breasts are not identical, people should go for a checkup if there is a swelling or thickening of one breast, or if one breast droops significantly below another.

Symptoms of breast cancer include nipple discharge, lump or thickening in the breast, a sore on the nipple that does not heal, hot tender breast, change in breast shape, specific areas of pain in the breast and swelling or pain in the armpit.

In addition, the CEO of the hospital, Mr Sonwabo Lindani said that the hospital has since last year been making tremendous efforts to improve service offerings for its patients and bring services closer to the community.

"We want to promote early detection and treatment through screening at our local clinics, hence we had provided breast training to all our catchment clinics to ensure smooth and effective referral pathways to the hospital. Our breast clinic is open every Wednesday at our Outpatient department," said the jubilant Lindani.

Stigma and discrimination hinder support for people living with Epilepsy



As the country observes National Epilepsy Week (13 – 20 February 2024), the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has called on the public not to perpetuate stigma and discrimination as this is a huge barrier for giving support to people living with Epilepsy.

Popularly known as seizures disorder, Epilepsy is a neurological condition involving the brain and it is characterised by recurring seizures. Although the disease is more common in children and older adults, it can affect people of different age groups, races, backgrounds and gender. According to Epilepsy South Africa, about 1 in 100 South Africans are affected by the condition.

Despite the fact that people living with Epilepsy can still do intellectual and physical work, they are still treated differently in some communities. Some people still hold to beliefs that the condition is as a

result of demonic possession and that people with Epilepsy are bewitched/cursed, that it is contagious or incurable. These myths have a negative impact and can keep people isolated and discouraged from seeking treatment.

It is through advocacy and awareness that the public can be conscientised to treat people living with Epilepsy with dignity and respect, and for those with the condition to be able to seek immediate medical care if they experience any common signs of epilepsy or if they know anyone in their families.

The symptoms of epilepsy include staring, jerking movements of the arms and legs, stiffening of the body, loss of consciousness, breathing problems or breathing stops, loss of bowel or bladder control, falling suddenly for no apparent reason, especially when associated with loss of consciousness.


It is important to seek timely medical help to ensuring that individuals and their families can receive the necessary guidance, support, and resources to manage Epilepsy and ultimately improve their quality of life."

It is important to seek immediate medical help to ensure that individuals and their families receive the necessary guidance, support and resources to manage Epilepsy and ultimately improve their quality of life.

Genetic influences, traumatic brain injury or head trauma, serious illness with high fever, stroke, dementia, period of sustained poor oxygen supply to the brain and infectious diseases are some of the risk factors or triggers of epileptic activities in the brain.

Health facilities across the province are accessible to provide comprehensive health services, support, and treatment on Epilepsy. The GDoH encourages communities to visit primary healthcare facilities for available treatment options for acute cases of seizures and chronic epilepsy conditions post-diagnosis.

Epileptic patients are initiated on treatment, those considered fit and controlled are enrolled on the Dablapmeds programme allowing them to collect medications at points closer to their residences. Uncontrolled cases with complications are typically referred to the next level of care linked to the clinic, whether it be a regional or tertiary hospital, for further management, including surgical procedures.



A fitter, healthier and happier Gauteng

Obesity increases the risk of developing non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, stroke, abnormal blood fats and certain cancers including colon and breast.

Take up physical activity and eat healthy to prevent lifestyle health complications!

Youth friendly services across 279 clinics in Gauteng

Koketso Maraba

Gauteng has 279 dedicated Adolescent Youth Friendly Services (AYFS) spaces which aim to improve the health and wellbeing of youth in and out of school aged 10 – 24 years.

Popularly known as Youth Zones, these centres provide a bouquet of comprehensive services for young people including sexual and reproductive health, pregnancy support, contraceptives, STI prevention, screening and management, substance abuse, mental health and counselling services, and Choice of termination of pregnancy referrals among other services.

Levai Mbatha Community Health Centre (CHC) in Evaton, Sedibeng is one of the centres that many young people find refuge and protection from. The Youth Zone provides young people with space and time to freely engage with well-trained staff members that are able to respond to their needs.

Professional Nurse and youth champion at the AYFS, Palesa Tsoaela explained that through these centers,



young people are assured that their visit to the clinic will help them improve their health and well-being as the staff is trained to deal with issues affecting young people.

Tsoaela said the youth has been responding positively to the programme and on a monthly basis they get to engage with 60 - 80 young people at the facility. And, the busiest times for the facility is during circumcision season when young men go to initiation school, the facility get more clients for voluntary male medical circumcision.

"We enjoy seeing young people visit our facility because they don't only come here for consultation they are also curious and ask us questions that

Gauteng has 279 dedicated Adolescent Youth Friendly Services (AYFS) spaces which aim to improve the health and wellbeing of youth in and out of school aged 10 – 24 years."

require us to expand our knowledge as nurses," said Palesa.

Tsholofelo Moeletsi (20), one of the client assessing family planning services at the centre said that she has learnt a lot about various healthcare services at her disposal since visiting the AYFS centres.

"My family encouraged me to come to the clinic to start taking contraceptives so that I do not fall prey to teenage pregnancy, allowing me to finish my studies. Through my engagements with the nurses at this facility, I was able to do more than just receive my contraceptive, I learned about the use of PEP and PrEP, HIV, STIs and other prevention methods available," said Moeletsi.

Colostomy closure surgeries give patients a special Valentine's Day gift



The Bertha Gxowa and Tambo Memorial regional hospitals celebrated Valentine's Day (14 February) in a special way by performing colostomy closure surgeries on 12 patients who previously underwent ostomy surgery.

Colostomy closure is a procedure that restores the normal flow of waste through the digestive system by reconnecting the bowel after a temporary stoma has been created. The surgery is crucial for restoring a patient's quality of life and dignity, allowing them to regain control over their bowel function and eliminating the need for a stoma bag.

Mbali Mofokeng (28), one of the 12 patients who underwent the colostomy closure on Valentine's Day at Bertha Gxowa said that she will reclaim her confidence now that has undergone the surgery.

"Even though the surgery helped save my life after having a ruptured appendicitis, it was very difficult for me to live with a colostomy as I could not have the social life I used to have. It often burned my skin, had a terrible smell and often required me to consistently visits the restrooms even when I was at school.

"I can now have a normal life after this surgery. I do not have to be explaining myself to everyone on what the smells or why cannot eat or drink enough. I am grateful for the surgery," said Mofokeng.

Another patient, Rinae Munyai (35) who is a professional photographer running his own

"I can now have a normal life after this surgery. I don't have to be explaining myself to everyone on what the smells or why can't eat or drink enough. I am grateful for the surgery."
 ~ Mbali Mofokeng.

company said that the colostomy limited his travelling which made him lose income to sustain his life and support his family.

"After a year of living with a colostomy, I am now looking forward to living my life fully because of this stoma reversal surgery. It was not an easy time for me and my business, but things are about to change as I will be able to travel and get more gigs," said Munyai.

Mofokeng and Munyai are part of 100 ostomy

patients who are eligible for the stoma reversal procedures during the month of February. On average, each case takes approximately 2 hours to operate.

The stoma reversal operations are part of the surgical marathons campaign that Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko introduced in July 2023 during Mandela Day when she declared war against surgical backlogs.

At that time the department's surgical backlog was sitting at 37 000. Through the intervention programme this has been reduced drastically with 25 253 operations done as of first week of February 2024.




The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has successfully conducted 4 different types of surgical marathons focusing on the high patient numbers in the following surgical categories namely, Arthroplasty, Cataracts, Urology, and General Surgery.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko visited Bertha Gxowa Hospital on Valentine's Day to congratulate Mofokeng, Munyai and five (5) others for their successful surgery. She also extended appreciation to all the healthcare workers who have been working tirelessly in order for the GDoH to reach the milestone of over 25 000 surgeries and counting.

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 or support@gauteng.gov.za
-  SMS : 35023

'Beyond excellent' – Helen Joseph Hospital commended by a patient

'Servant leadership' leads to praise for Tembisa Hospital
 It is with pride that I announce that the Tembisa Provincial Hospital Management met the "distressed" family of one of the patient whose situation I flagged on Sunday night.

Issues of concern were raised and hospital management committed to resolving them and the family was happy with the response and courtesy extended to them during the redress meetings interaction.

Once again many thanks to Premier Panyaza Lesufi and MEC Nomantu Nkomo -Ralehoko for their intervention and affirming their "SERVANT LEADERSHIP" approach to service delivery.
 Re a leboga!

From: Tshepo Ikaneng, Facebook

* Letter grammatically edited

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

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





NASI iSPANI!

THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF JOBS ON OFFER

BECOME PART OF A PATIENT-CENTRED CLINICIAN-LED, STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN HEALTHCARE SERVICE

APPLY

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

Messenger – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Production Level Audiologist – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Client Information Clerk – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Physicist – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Manager Medical Services – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Clinical Technologist (Cardiology) – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Podiatry Production – Johannesburg Health District
Occupational Therapist Production – Johannesburg Health District
Medical Specialist Grade 1-3/Lecturer – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Therapeutic And Medical Support Services Coordinator (Physiotherapist) – Johannesburg Health District
Therapeutic And Medical Support Services Coordinator (Podiatrist) – Johannesburg Health District
Property Caretaker – Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Clinical Psychologist – Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Administration Officer (Logistics And Support) – Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Radiographer (Diagnostic) – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Social Worker: Wellness Management Practitioner (Employee Assistant Programme – EAP) – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Medical Specialist – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Household Aid Supervisor – Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Deputy Director: Monitoring And Evaluation – Sebokeng Hospital
Dentist (Sessional) – West Rand District Health Services
Dentist – West Rand District Health Services
Social Work Supervisor – West Rand District Health Services
Ultrasound Radiographer – West Rand District Health Services
Dental Assistant – West Rand District Health Services
Diagnostic Radiographer – West Rand District Health Services
Dental Assistant (Sessional) – West Rand District Health Services
Professional Nurse General – West Rand District Health Services (MCWH)
Occupation Therapy Technician – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District X1) (Merafong Sub-District X1)
Operational Manager Nursing – West Rand District Health Services (Randfontein Sub-District)
Dental Assistant – West Rand District Health Services
Social Worker – West Rand District Health Services
Social Worker – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Assistant Director Occupational Therapy – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Secretary – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Clinical Programme Coordinator – West Rand District Health Services
Staff Nurse (TB Programme) – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District X1) (Merafong Sub-District X1)
Professional Nurse Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) – West Rand District Health Services (Randfontein Sub-District)
Clinical Programme Coordinator (TB Programme) – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Chief Optometrist – West Rand District Health Services
Clinical Programme Coordinator (Drug Resistance TB) – West Rand District Health Services
Occupation Therapy Technician – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Laundry Worker – South Rand District Hospital
Cleaner – South Rand District Hospital
Assistant Director: Security – Helen Joseph Hospital

Operational Manager Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) – West Rand District Health Services
Optometrist – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District)
Nursing Assistant – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Staff Nurse (Ward Based Primary Health Care Outreach Team) – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District X1) (Merafong Sub-District X1)
Staff Nurse – West Rand District Health Services (Randfontein Sub-District)
Staff Nurse – West Rand District Health Services (Westonaria Sub-District)
Staff Nurse – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District)
Staff Nurse – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Professional Nurse General – West Rand District Health Services (Westonaria Sub-District)
Professional Nurse General – West Rand District Health Services (Randfontein Sub-District)
Professional Nurse General – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District)
Professional Nurse General – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Clinical Programme Coordinator – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Professional Nurse Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) – West Rand District Health Services (Westonaria Sub-District)
Professional Nurse Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Clinical Nurse Practitioner – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Professional Nurse Specialty: Primary Health Care – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District)
Professional Nurse Specialty: Primary Health Care – West Rand District Health Services (Westonaria Sub-District)
Operational Manager Nursing – West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District)
Operational Manager Nursing – Specialty: Primary Health Care – West Rand District Health Services (Westonaria Sub-District)
Operational Manager General Stream PNA-5 Medical Admission Ward (Re-Advertisement Those Who Previously Applied Are Encouraged To Re-Apply) – Helen Joseph Hospital
Social Work Grade 1 – Helen Joseph Hospital
Dentist – Wits Oral Health Centre
HRD (PMDS, Skills Development & Training Coordinator) – South Rand District Hospital
Clinical Manager: ERRATUM (People Who Are Previously Applied Are Encouraged To Apply) – Helen Joseph Hospital
Operational Manager Nursing – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Operational Manager Nursing (Specialty: Primary Health Care) – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Medical Officer (Sessional) – West Rand District Health Services
Registrar (Medical) – West Rand District Health Services
Medical Officer – West Rand District Health Services
Occupational Therapist – West Rand District Health Services (Merafong Sub-District)
Registrar – University Of Pretoria Oral Health
Dentist/Lecturer – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Registrar – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Registrar – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Oral Hygienist – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Dental Assistant – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Professional Nurse Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) Clinical Nurse Practitioner – Johannesburg Health District (Abcef Sub-District) Westbury X 5

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:

<https://jobs.gauteng.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.