



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

Tuesday, 15 September 2020

ACTING HEALTH MEC PLEASSED WITH STATE PHARMACY CAPACITY AS OVER FIVE MILLION PATIENTS COLLECT THEIR MEDICATION FROM PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

The Gauteng Acting MEC for Health, Jacob Mamabolo says the fact that over five million patients collected their medication in health facilities across the province in the past financial year is an indication of the health system's capability to deliver quality healthcare.

Pharmacy visits to state hospitals in Gauteng in 2019 amounted to 5 465 003 patients who went to collect their medication.

MEC Mamabolo remarked that “despite the increasing volume of people visiting our facilities, we continue to meet our obligation, and this affirms the resilience of our health system and the state of readiness towards the implementation of the universal health coverage (National Health Insurance)”.

The Department has put the following measures in place to tackle any shortage of medication:

- Weekly monitoring of medicine availability at the pharmacy store which provides an opportunity to source stock before it impacts service delivery.
- Follow ups are made with suppliers to expedite delivery, when an item has exceeded the lead time.
- Movement of and borrowing of stock between facilities where possible.
- Ensuring adequate stock holding for the suppliers with longer lead times.
- Imposing penalties on non-performing suppliers.
- Payment of suppliers within 30 days, to ensure that accounts are not placed on hold.
- Buy-out against suppliers who cannot supply the medication and have exceeded on the contractual lead time.

MEC Mamabolo further stated that the average waiting time to collect medication at the government hospital pharmacies is within the norms and standards for waiting time but there is room for improvement. In the last financial year, the majority of our facilities were above 95% in terms of stock availability for medication.

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