

# NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

03 MARCH 2024



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- MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

## Next step to promote life-saving skills in Gauteng

Lebone College of Emergency Care (LCOEC), a training centre under the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has achieved a significant milestone in its mission to promote life-saving skills by acquiring an international accreditation from the American Heart Association (AHA).

With this accreditation, Lebone College is now authorised to offer Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (BLSHCP) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) courses. These courses provide essential knowledge and skills to healthcare providers, equipping them to respond effectively in emergency situations to save lives.

In addition, this milestone positions Lebone College as one of the approximately 4 000 international training centres in the world and the third government operated centre in the country accredited to offer the AHA courses.

This accomplishment highlights the GDoH's commitment to deliver quality healthcare training and services within the government structures which is a crucial step towards the readiness for the National Health Insurance (NHI) rollout in the province.

"Addressing the gap in resuscitation skills among healthcare workers and ensuring standardised care strengthens our health system's capacity to save lives. It further aligns with the NHI's goal of providing equitable access to high-quality healthcare services for all residents," said MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally, claiming an estimated 17.9 million lives each year. CVDs are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease and other conditions. More than four out of five CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes, and one third of these deaths occur prematurely in people under 70 years of age.

"Today we celebrate many things, but most importantly, the lives that will be saved because of this partnership. This agreement is an important step forward in building longer, healthier lives in Gauteng Province and South Africa as a whole.

"High-quality CPR when performed immediately can double or even triple survival from sudden cardiac arrest. Having more people equipped to provide high-quality CPR at any point along the chain of survival can help us improve survival rate," said Mr Glenn van Houten, a representative from the AHA.

Lebone College continues to provide training in Emergency Medical Care and Medical Rescue courses and is currently in the process of acquiring accreditation with the Council of Higher Education which will allow the college to independently offer a curriculum that is recognised across higher education institutions. Currently Next step



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko on Power FM's Power Perspective with Denzil Taylor reflecting on the strides made in the Gauteng public healthcare system and her journey in the Gauteng Department of Health. When the MEC took office as the MEC of Health and Wellness in October 2022 she made a vow to tackle head-on the challenges confronting the department and turn the tide. "Through resilience, innovation, and a shared vision, we have indeed turned the tide for the better to lay the ground for the next administration," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

#AsibeHealthyGP

to promote life-saving skills in Gauteng New lactation centre at Bara the college is offering Higher Certificate and Diploma in Emergency Medical Care through a partnership with Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

## Accessible ear and hearing care services for all

As we mark World Hearing Day (3rd of March), the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) encourages everyone to prioritise their ear and hearing health. Individuals experiencing hearing difficulties should visit their nearest healthcare facility for assessment as addressing hearing problems early can prevent further complications and improve the quality of life for individuals with hearing difficulties.

In addressing the demand for hearing aids, the GDoH has made progress in ensuring that as many people as possible access the devices. In the past three years up to January 2024 the department has issued devices to 16 753 qualifying people and currently has 566 people that are on the register to receive hearing aids in the new financial year.

A total of 67 FM Systems – which help reduce background noise, improve clarity and reduce listening fatigue, comprising of 42 for children aged 0-18 years and 25 for adults aged 19 years and older, were distributed. In addition, nine Bone Conduction Hearing Aids, which amplify sound via bone conduction, or vibrations through the bones of the skull, were issued from Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) and Steve Biko Academic Hospital (SBAH) changing lives of five children and four adults in the 2023/24 financial year.

The Department's Cochlear Implant Program continues to benefit many individuals suffering from hearing impairments. A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted device that allows a severely deaf person to perceive sounds. This electronic device stimulates the auditory nerve through electrodes placed in the cochlea of the inner ear. The cost of the implant is around R250 000.



*"We are committed to ensuring that ear and hearing care is accessible to all residents. Through our comprehensive range of services, including screenings, treatment options, and assistive devices, we aim to address hearing loss and promote better ear health."*

During the current financial year, a total of 38 cochlear implants surgeries were performed at CHBAH, benefiting 18 children and 20 adults. The SBAH started its cochlear implant program in 2019 and has already performed 18 cochlear implants to date.

"We are committed to ensuring that ear and hearing care is accessible to all residents. Through our comprehensive range of services, including screenings, treatment options, and assistive devices, we aim to address hearing loss and promote better ear health. Our efforts have

resulted in a drastic reduction in the waiting list for hearing aids which is a milestone that reflects our commitment to the well-being of communities," explains Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.

In support of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) vision of changing mindsets by making ear and hearing care a reality for all, the GDoH has made strides in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing problems.

The Department has, as part of the comprehensive range of services, implemented various initiatives to address hearing loss and difficulties among individuals. These initiatives include therapy, assistive devices, and early identification through screening. In the current financial year, a total of 13,474 children were screened for hearing loss at various hospitals and primary healthcare facilities to ensure early detection and intervention.

Early Childhood Intervention workshops are also conducted to educate healthcare providers and offers early developmental screening for disabilities, including hearing loss detection, as part of the Road to Health Booklet package of services targeting children.

Watch the testimony of Mr Zweli Duma a beneficiary of the cochlear implant program on our YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/watch?v=N0dUvfq4qow&feature=shared>.



## Call for the public to prioritise sexual health

As the country wraps up Reproductive Health Month (February), the MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has urged the public to take charge and make healthier sexual health and reproductive health choices.

The MEC made this plea during the Gauteng Department of Health's (GDoH) wellness programme which wrapped up the month-long reproductive health awareness drive with a focus on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and encouraging the correct and consistent use of condoms and other HIV preventative measures such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

Held at the Rietvlei Zoo Farm in Alberton, Ekurhuleni, the wellness programme was aimed at informing the public and GDoH employees in attendance about the signs and symptoms of STIs, how an individual can contract the disease, seeking assistance when they have contracted the STIs, and most importantly, how to avoid contracting the STIs and easy access of healthcare services.

"A lot of people often neglect and forget to prioritise their sexual health which can put them at risk of acquiring STIs and HIV. It is important that sexually active individuals practice safe sex

and use every STI and HIV preventative measures available to them.

"Our clinics provide free condoms and STI and HIV prevention, testing and treatment services. We should not allow risky sexual behaviour as it can be detrimental to our overall health and in the worst case scenario, cut our lives short," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Maeshela Maheya, programme manager for the HIV/AIDS, STI's and Tuberculosis at the GDoH encouraged the public to learn how to use condoms consistently and correctly to avoid STIs, HIV infection and unplanned pregnancies.

"It is important that communities heed the call for correct and consistent condom usage, safer sexual behaviour and adhere to STI and HIV prevention measures. We have enough condoms for both males and females, as well as prevention medications at our healthcare facilities free of charge," said Maheya.

In addition, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko encouraged everyone to prioritise their health by taking up physical exercise, adopting healthy eating habits and regularly visits their health facilities for health checks.

The GDoH also provides all forms of contraceptive methods which include devices, pills and injections and Choice of Termination of Pregnancy services. The public can enquire about these services at their local clinic or hospital and through the GDoH social media platforms.

# Bara gets one-of-a-kind sanctuary for lactating mothers

Shaun Maluleke & Thulasizwe Lembede

In an effort to promote breastfeeding, one of the foundations of child health, development and survival, the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital together with the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMCH) opened a new lactation centre for mothers whose children are still admitted at the facility after birth.

The centre is a first its kind in a public hospital that the RMCH has donated in Africa with the aim of creating love, hope, comfort and care to the mothers whose children are still admitted in hospital after birth due to prematurity and other illnesses.

Jo-Ann Joffe, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the RMCH said that her organisation's endeavours, are aimed at targeting premature babies to receive the support they need from everyone.

"We have undertaken this project to ensure that mothers have proper space to look after their premature babies. Their nutrition is very special breast milk which is important to keep babies healthier to avoid infections and other things that may lead to death as babies are still developing.



"This event marks not just the renewal but the significant enhancement in the support and care to families of premature babies and ensuring that while they get treatment, they are able to have nourishment they need to grow," said Joffe.

CHBAH has 875 beds for neonates and records approximately 17 000 deliveries a year. These requires multidiscipline teams who work together to give appropriate care and support to both babies and their mothers, while in a safe, clean and healing environment.

Tshepiso Mahlangu, a mother of a neonate at CHBAH who uses the lactation centre said that that she was happy that not only her child's wellbeing was considered but herself too as she enjoys being in an environment that is welcoming and healing.

"My baby who was born pre-term is admitted at this hospital and after seeing this new facility, I can only be grateful for the hospital's consideration of us as

mothers as well. I now feel closer to my child as I can express milk for my child is a beautiful space," said Mahlangu.

The Acting CEO of the CHBAH, Dr Mkhulu Selepe said that the hospital is grateful for the contribution by the RMCH, as the building will improve the overall emotions and wellbeing of the mothers, as well as staff morale at the hospital.

Meanwhile, the CHBAH recently opened a newly renovated surgical ward as part of efforts to improve infrastructure at the hospital which will in turn improve service delivery and patient experience of care.

In addition, the CHBAH recently refurbished 48-bedded surgical ward (10) in an effort to improve effective patient care and quality services. The refurbishments includes a new admin and nurse station, new flooring, painting and telephones.



## A fitter, healthier and happier Gauteng

It's important that people take up physical activities and eat healthy to ensure that they do not acquire lifestyle diseases. Those who are already diagnosed with diseases such as hypertension and diabetes should ensure that they continue taking their treatment and lead healthy lifestyles to prevent early death.

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

## Public urged to report bogus health practitioners

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has urged the public to report bogus and unregistered healthcare practitioners as such individuals do not only undermine the integrity of the healthcare system but also pose a significant risk to the wellbeing of the public with their uninformed diagnosis on various health issues.

This comes as the GDoH nabbed yet another individual impersonating a medical doctor at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) on Sunday night (25 February) after they demanded that an escort to a patient pay R700 for the 'Dr' to assist the patient.

The patient became suspicious when the bogus doctor who was wearing green scrubs



with the name Dr Zulu imprinted on the uniform, advised her to meet at the pedestrian gate where the said payment was to be made. The escort notified the security personnel who eventually apprehended the bogus doctor at the hospital's pedestrian gate.

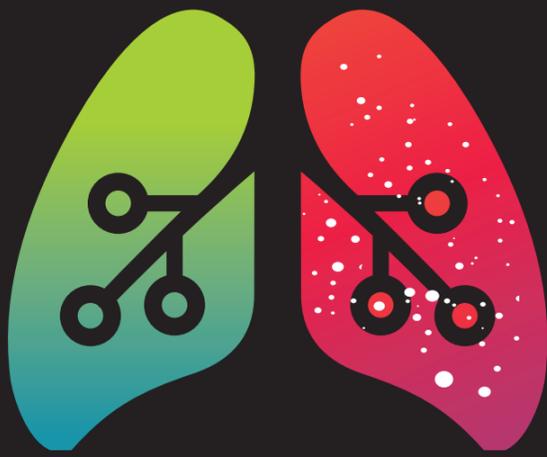
GDoH Head of Communication, Motalatale Modiba said that when the security and facility management asked the bogus doctor

to produce her Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) registration number and her persal number she was unable to do so.

"Chris Hani Bara has since opened a case at Diepkloof police station. The bogus doctor spent a night in custody and appeared before the Orlando Magistrate's Court during the week.

"We wish to urge public to be vigilant by not falling for such scams. The healthcare workers in our facilities will never ask members of the public to pay them directly. If there are any fees payable in the hospital in line with the Uniform Patient Fee Schedule, this will be done at patient administration and an invoice will be issued to indicate exactly what the patient is paying for," said Modiba.

Members of the public or patients can report any suspicious behaviour or individual to security at their attending hospital or clinic, or through the HPCSA website on [www.hpcs.co.za](http://www.hpcs.co.za) or email on [Inspectorateoffice@hpcs.co.za](mailto:Inspectorateoffice@hpcs.co.za) for its Inspectorate Office to investigate. Alternatively, they can verify a practitioner's status by calling the HPCSA Call Centre on 012 338 9300/1.



# GAUTENG TBHOTLINE

DO YOU HAVE A **TUBERCULOSIS-RELATED**  
QUESTION? CALL THE TB GAUTENG HOTLINE!



## GAUTENG TBHOTLINE

NON - EMERGENCY | PUBLIC LIAISON  
MONDAY – SUNDAY | 24HOURS

# 0800 428 8364

Email: [hotline@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:hotline@gauteng.gov.za) | [support@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:support@gauteng.gov.za)  
Whatsapp: 082 601 1000 | USSD: \*134\*47472#  
Website: [www.gauteng.gov.za](http://www.gauteng.gov.za)  
Gauteng Digital Platform  

 Gauteng Hotline |  Gautenghotline

## YOUR FEEDBACK

### MATTERS TO US!

#### Mfolo Clinic surpasses expectations

Guys, is Mofolo Clinic public or private clinic? The service at that institution is the best by far, from the security to the nursing staff. I've never been at the public clinic before but this year I took some time out to attend to my personal health that needed the clinic.

Guess what? I felt like I was at the private clinic getting value for my money. I felt like a paying client indeed.

Firstly, when I went there last month I was told the doctor was off sick. I left my contacts and said 'call me when the doctor is available' and to my surprise, a week later I received a call to come.

I was attended like a king. The service was out of this world. All my concerns were attended to and I was given a referral letter to go to Bheki Mlangeni Hospital in Jabulani. Unfortunately, the service there is a direct opposite of what I got from Mofolo Clinic. The staff there is not as friendly as their counterparts. They look and sound very angry.

Back to my point though. At Mofolo Clinic, about two weeks back I took a child who was hit by a car. The service was still the best. At the emergency section they really treated the patient (my daughter) with the emergency her situation deserves. I advised two people to go there and even them abawuvali umlomo nge service abayithole lapha.

It is very rare that you find people complimenting a government institution. We even thought maybe it's because it's election year. I don't know the service in other clinics but there, you get a first class service. Big up to the staff, doctors and management I applaud all of you and salute you. Thank you for erasing the bad perception I had against imithola mpilo.

From: **Fortune B Sithole, Facebook**

\* 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](mailto:patients.health@gauteng.gov.za) or**  
**[support@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:support@gauteng.gov.za)**
-  **SMS : 35023**

For letters, contribution and suggestion contact [GDoHstories@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:GDoHstories@gauteng.gov.za)

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   [@gautenghealth](#)

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# 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

Physiotherapist Production Level - Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Chief Physiotherapist - Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Electroencephalogram (Eeg) Technician - Kalafong Provincial
Assistant Speech Therapist And Audiologist - Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Professional Nurse (General Stream) - Weskoppies Hospital
Professional Nurse (Specialty Stream): (Psychiatry) - Weskoppies Hospital
Staff Nurse - Weskoppies Hospital
Nursing Assistant - Weskoppies Hospital
Property Caretaker Supervisor - Weskoppies Hospital
Driver - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Nursing (General) - Pretoria West District Hospital
Assistant Director (Supply Chain Management) Re-Advertisement - Dr Yusuf Dadoo Hospital
Medical Officer: Emergency Medicine - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Assistant Director (Facility Manager) - Ga-Rankuwa Fps
Registrar (Medical): Dermatology - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Speciality Pnb-1 Psychiatric - Helen Joseph Hospital
Pharmacy Supervisor Grade 1 - Helen Joseph Hospital

Medical Officer Grade 1 Emergency Medicine - Helen Joseph Hospital
Senior Registrar Endocrinology - Helen Joseph Hospital
Medical Officer - Roodepoort FPS
Chaplain (12 Months Contract) - Forensic Medical Services
Medical Specialist (Trauma) - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Human Resources Clerk - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Registrar [Medical] - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Registrar [Medical] - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Paediatric Specialist - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist (Fixed Two Years' Contract) - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist (2-Year Fixed Contract) - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Specialists (2-Year Fixed Contract) - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Property Caretaker - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Operational Manager: Speciality Psychiatry (Pn-B3) - Steve Biko 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:

<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](mailto:e-recruitment@gauteng.gov.za).