

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

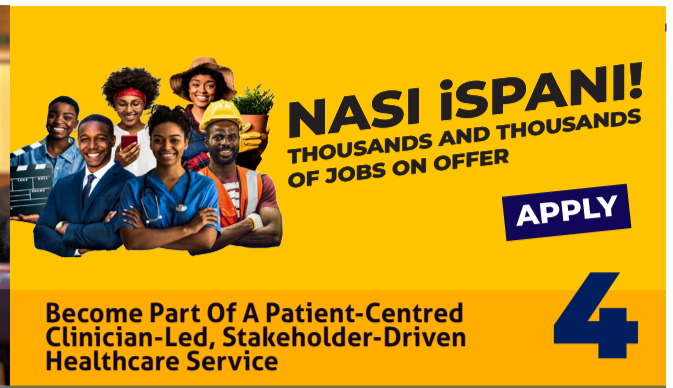
14 APRIL 2024



Smile Week Initiative



Clinic Committees ready to serve



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



The establishment of this Research Centre is a clear indication of our commitment to staying at the forefront of medical research and education. It is a place where ideas can flourish, where knowledge is shared, and where solutions to some of the most challenging health issues are sought."

- MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Research centre for child cancers and blood disorders to pioneer interventions

Shaun Maluleke

The newly opened Research Centre at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) is set to provide health professionals and academics a platform to conduct ongoing research on childhood cancer and blood disorders.

This comes after MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko together with the founder of the Stanley and Daphne Nkosi Foundation, Daphne Mashile-Nkosi handed over the first of its kind oncology research centre to the hospital on Wednesday, 10 April 2024.

The centre will provide a platform for education, policy development and advocacy for childhood cancer, ensuring continuous improvement in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of childhood cancers and blood disorders.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the opening of the facility marks an important milestone in the ongoing journey towards excellence in health care and medical research.

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and education. It is a place where ideas can flourish, where knowledge is shared, and where solutions to some of the most challenging health issues are sought.

"The focus of this centre on childhood cancer and blood disorders is particularly significant, as these are areas where ongoing research is crucial for improving treatment outcomes and ultimately saving lives," said the MEC.

The centre will also serve as a library to store material produced in the hospital for future use. It will be used by researchers and professors from the University of the Witwatersrand to conduct their ground-breaking research that will benefit the global medical community.

The centre was made possible through the generous support of the Stanley and Daphne Nkosi Foundation which has established the Zakithi Nkosi precinct at the hospital which offers oncology services to thousands of paediatrics and adult patients from across the country.

Mashile-Nkosi said that CHBAH stands as a beacon of hope and symbolise resilience, so it was fitting for it to have a research



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko conducting oversight visits at the #iCrushNoLova jobs and skills programme registration sites in Ekurhuleni on Saturday, 13 April 2024. The ground-breaking programme offers all unemployed people of all ages close to 500 000 jobs and training opportunities in various fields including amongst others agriculture, health and wellness, ICT, mining and education. The skills programme is a partnership between Gauteng government, the national departments of Higher Education and Employment and Labour.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

centre that solely focuses on bringing change in the health care system.

"It is within these walls of this hospital that we have the opportunity to effect real change. Let us take this opportunity to work as a collective to make a difference and leave a legacy of compassion and excellence. Together we have the power to transform our health landscape," said Mashile-Nkosi.

Facial reconstruction surgeries give little ones the gift of smile

Rudzani Matshili

Three-month-old baby Junior underwent cleft lip repair surgery this week at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMAH), leaving his mother, Farai Mugobogobo, overjoyed.

Shortly after the procedure, Mugobogobo who is from Soshanguve said that the surgery was an important opportunity to address the issue of feeding her bundle of joy and will improve her son's quality of life.

Junior is one of 22 children who received facial repair surgeries this week as part of the Smile Week, with the majority undergoing cleft lip surgeries as part of the Smile Week initiative. Smile Week is an initiative by the Smile Foundation in which they collaborate with hospitals to perform reconstructive surgery on children with facial anomalies and burn injuries.

Junior's mother said that she had already accepted her child being born with a cleft lip and loved him just the way he was. However, what hurt her the most was the treatment she received from some members of the community.

Mugobogobo said that the feeling of having her son's smile brought back is indescribable.

"I am overwhelmed with love and excitement. I would like to express my gratitude to both DGMAH and the Smile Foundation for bringing a smile to my child's face. Accepting that you've



I would like to express my gratitude to both DGMAH and the Smile Foundation for bringing a smile to my child's face. Accepting that you've given birth to a child with a cleft lip isn't easy at first."

given birth to a child with a cleft lip isn't easy at first. For some, it takes time, but for me, the bond started immediately after birth," she said.

Another little warrior is Matlhati, who was born with a lateral cleft lip (Tessier 7 Craniofacial Cleft), which is a rare congenital anomaly. Anomalies like these make a child's mouth unnaturally large and any facial expression causes their condition to be even more noticeable.

This type of facial cleft affects the soft tissues and underlying skeletal structures of the face and can in some instances, be bilateral, affecting both sides of the face symmetrically. The nine-

month-old's case presents a lateral cleft lip which extends from the one corner of his mouth to his left ear.

Matlhati's mother said that she was hopeful that her son will have a normal life and could not wait to see her son's new face with a smile.

The initiative was funded by Jacaranda FM's Good Morning Angels. Last year July, they raised an amount of R2 million during the surgical marathons on Mandela Day while broadcasting live outside the DGMAH, and the funds raised went towards providing surgeries to 80 children with facial abnormalities across the country.

Tarri Parfitt, CEO of Smile Foundation said that all children should be able to feel loved and understood growing up.

"Sadly, there are still many who due to facial anomalies or burn injuries and a lack of financial resources, will never fully experience the freedom and joy that acceptance brings. But things are changing for the better and through the selfless dedication of the surgeons and medical support teams, the generosity of incredible sponsors like Good Morning Angels and their listeners, and everyone who has ever offered their time and talent throughout our



Gauteng key population centres benchmark for Botswana's Ministry of Health

Sinazo Novukela

The Gauteng Department of Health's (GDoH) key population centres have caught the attention of the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Botswana for creating a safe and friendly space for sex workers, persons who inject drugs, inmates and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

Officials from the neighbouring Ministry visited Krugersdorp Central Clinic on Tuesday, 09 April 2024 for a learning opportunity on how to establish and the run key population centres.

The visit presented Botswana with an opportunity to glean best practices on the journey undertaken by South Africa through the GDoH when establishing such centers. The province set up these facilities to ensure inclusion of comprehensive healthcare services for key populations. This is the group that stand a higher risk contracting and transmitting HIV

and STIs than the general population due to marginalisation, socio-cultural and structural factors such as stigma and discrimination, which contributes to their limited access to health care facilities.

Key Population centres underscores the dedication to providing accessible health services to all members of the community and marks an important milestone in the on-going efforts to achieve the World Health Organisation WHO and The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 95-95-95 strategy.

"This is a start of a collaborative relationship that will enable Botswana to identify Key Populations and set a Centre of Excellence which will in turn minimise stigma. We appreciate the insights we received from the Krugersdorp Central Clinic Centre of Excellence. We will move forward in building partnerships like this anchored Gauteng key population centres benchmark for Botswana's Ministry of Health on shared objectives and the

Through this centre of excellence, we have gotten an opportunity to be well-informed on our health and how to take preventative measures to protect ourselves from HIV and sexually transmitted infections. We are able to consult on various health issues without any fear of judgment."
~ Mercy Mabunda.

prioritisation of key population needs," said Paul Motshonu, a representative from Botswana's Ministry of Health and Wellness.

In attendance were some of the Key Population centre users who shared their experiences on the services they receive at the clinic. Mercy Mabunda, a sex worker and regular user of Krugersdorp Central Clinic said that through the centre, a lot of stigma has been broken down, she can access services as an ordinary citizens with no eye-brows raised on the type of work that she does.

"Through this centre of excellence, we have gotten an opportunity to be well-informed on our health and how to take preventative measures to protect ourselves from HIV and sexually transmitted infections. We are able to consult on various health issues without any fear of judgment," said Mabunda.

Gauteng has 13 clinics across the province that provide a safe space for key populations. The fixed clinics are in partnership with the WitsRHI, Engage Mens Health, ANOVA, TBIVCARE, AURUM Institute and Agape.

Clinic committees to promote effective and efficient governance

The newly appointed members of Clinic Committees are geared up to ensure that the 370 public clinics located in their communities offer patient-centred care and work closely with locals to improve health outcomes.

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has appointed 1 444 clinic committee members to improve the quality of service and patient experience of care at their local clinics across the province.

These structures will play a vital role in ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in the governance of public clinics through fostering public participation, assisting in addressing health needs of the communities they serve, and ensuring accountability and the effective management of the facilities.

Clinic Committees are statutory bodies appointed by the MEC for Health and Wellness



in accordance with Section 42 of the National Health Act, No.61 of 2003. Members are appointed for a three-year term, and they may serve for not more than three consecutive terms.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko on Wednesday, 10 April welcomed the Clinic Committee members during their induction programme held at the Centenary Hall in Krugersdorp, West Rand.

She emphasised that the appointed members will voluntarily conduct oversight in their local

clinics in an effort to improve health services and patient experience of care. They include five community members, three ex-officio members who may be a local councillor, health representative, and a community development worker.

"In our efforts to strengthen governance across all our health facilities, we have appointed these members to ensure that the voices of our communities are heard, acted upon and their health needs are adequately addressed in our public clinics," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Triumphant patient calls Dr George Mukhari Hospital a second home

Rudzani Matshili

Lerato Matlangwe, who has spent nearly her entire life in and out of Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMAH), has nothing but the kindest words for the staff, who not only saved her life but also provided invaluable emotional support.

Dealing with numerous health complications resulting from being born with spina bifida, the 33-year-old from Soshanguve, Pretoria, has been under the care of the facility for 32 years. Spina bifida, a condition affecting the spine, is typically evident at birth and is frequently associated with various health challenges, including paralysis of the lower limbs, as well as bowel, bladder, and kidney issues, along with sexual dysfunction.

Matlangwe said that her time at DGMAH has been wonderful. "I have been a patient for many years, so this place feels like a second home to me. The support I've received from the staff, management, and various clinics within the hospital has been immense. Whether it was orthopaedics, surgery, medical wards, or the renal unit, everyone has treated me with kindness and care. I have essentially found a second family here. Through numerous health challenges, I've persevered, and it's all thanks to the dedicated healthcare practitioners," she said.

She recounted that as she grew older, she started facing more health challenges, one of which



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resulted in abscesses that ultimately led to both of her legs being amputated in 2015 at the facility. The support from staff still remained amazing," the patient said.

Shortly after being discharged, she fell into depression and attempted to take her own life with sleeping tablets. Once again, she found herself back at the facility where she not only recovered physically but also emotionally. "There was this amazing doctor who bought me a book during my admission, about a person who didn't have limbs at all, which I read and found comfort in," she said.

Adding to her already daunting challenges, a year following her amputation, her umbilical cord reopened, causing fluid leakage. Matlangwe remembered having to spend her birthday in the hospital at that time.

"The urologists ensured I received excellent care, and one even surprised me with a cake, turning my hospital stay into a celebratory moment within the ward I was admitted to," said Matlangwe.

In 2022, she received a diagnosis of kidney disease, which she described as the toughest challenge she has faced. "That was the most challenging disease I have had to deal with so far, but with the support from the renal unit staff, everything fell into place."

She also expressed her gratitude to Gauteng Emergency Medical Services for providing transportation to and from the hospital for her dialysis appointments, which occur three times a week. Enduring prolonged sessions of dialysis, she must visit the facility three times weekly.

"I was struggling with transportation costs, spending approximately R900 weekly on transport alone. When I inquired about assistance, the department provided help, and now I no longer face financial struggles. Thank you so mu

Gauteng employs strategies to ensure adherence to antiretroviral therapy

In a bid to ensure that adults on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) remain on treatment, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) continues to implement various strategies.

These strategies include case management of newly diagnosed patients, psychological support and education on the importance of adhering to treatment and leading a healthy lifestyle.

This was revealed by the Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko in a recent response to a question from the Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

"We have implemented an appointment system where patients are booked for facility visits according to their needs," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

In addition, daily tracing and tracking of patients who have missed their appointments with allowance to reschedule an appointment is being implemented. Health education plays a pivotal role as the department continues with treatment literacy which improves retention on



treatment as patients are educated on the importance of remaining on treatment effectively.

Psychological support through support groups is one of the strategies which is of paramount importance to patients on ART and those who are struggling on treatment and re-engaging on treatment after an interruption.

The GDoH has further implemented Multi Month Medicine dispensing on all clinically stable patients to receive 2 – 3 months' supply of ART which is vital to supporting

improved and long-term adherence and retention to treatment.

"We have a differentiated model of care where patients are allowed to choose where to collect their monthly medication to reduce long queues and waiting times and the number of visits to health facilities. We also welcome back the care model which acknowledges that patients live dynamic lives and can miss appointments, and when they do, health care workers offer the much-needed support in a friendly and professional manner with respect and compassion," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.



MATTERS TO US!

South Rand Hospital TOP service praised

This email is to let you know of the great service I experienced at South Rand Hospital termination of pregnancy clinic (TOP).

The day I walked in, I was so nervous and shy thinking people would judge me and treat me bad because of what I was about to do. I am a woman who suffers with hyperemesis gravidarum and pregnancy has never been easy for me.

When I got to the TOP clinic ward at South Rand Hospital, sister Sibongile and her team really treated myself along with others with kindness. They counselled us, making sure we knew if it was what we wanted. They told us about the different contraceptions and made us feel safe and secure in all procedures. They did not judge us and explained that termination of pregnancy was normal due to different situations and life circumstances.

We then took the medications and they made us sit there till we took it making sure each and every woman/girl took them correctly. They had said that if nothing happens, it is normal and emphasised that we should come for our check-ups.

I then went for my check-up and found that the foetus was still in my tummy. Sister Sibongile saw and comforted me straight away, letting me know that I will be okay and what was the next procedure.

As I am today, I am happy, healthy and safe. I am so grateful for the amazing services received all procedures work if we all follow the rules as said by the sister. The staff at the hospital is friendly and helpful.

I would recommend any woman/girl looking for a government place to do TOP to go to the South Rand hospital. It is safe, secure and reliable.

Kind regards

AS* (Initial used instead of names of patient)

07 April 2024


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**

* Letter grammatically edited

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

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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

Medical Officer: Surgery - Helen Joseph Hospital
Radiographer - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Manager Medical Services - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Clinical Program Coordinator Grade 1 (Training Unit) - Pretoria West District Hospital
Assistant Director (Nutrition) - Re-Advertisement - Johannesburg Health District
Deputy Director (Therapeutic & Medical Support Services) - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Specialist: General Surgery - Far East Rand Hospital
Psychologist - Far East Rand Hospital
Lecturer - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
HoD Primary Care Nursing - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
HoD Student Affairs - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
HoD Student Counselling And Development - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
Specialist Cardiologist - Helen Joseph Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Hospitals And Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Lecturer (Diploma In Nursing) - Chris Hani Baragwanath Campus
Lecturer Pnd1/Pnd2 -Rpl & Placement Coordinators - Chris Hani Baragwanath Campus
Assistant Director Clinical Technology: Cardiology - 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.