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## Antenatal services and HIV testing during pregnancy are crucial to prevent mother to child transmission

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) wishes to urge pregnant women to access antenatal services immediately when they find out that they are pregnant as this is crucial to ensure a safe pregnancy and to prevent maternal infections that can lead to premature birth, still births and other complications.

Antenatal services are freely and daily accessible at all primary healthcare facilities across the province. These play a key role in preventing vertical transmission (mother to child transmission) of new HIV cases, TB cases, syphilis cases, and other infections.

In the period of January – June 2023, the Gauteng province recorded a total of 208 children born with HIV (Ekurhuleni 72, Johannesburg 70, Tshwane 41, West Rand 18 and Sedibeng 7), whereas in January - May 2024, a total of 151 was recorded in the province (Ekurhuleni 51, Johannesburg 55, Tshwane 25, West Rand 14 and Sedibeng 6). The data for June 2024 will only be available towards the end of July 2024 after validation and verification.

Even though this data indicates a reduction in mother to child transmission, it is still concerning that there are children who are born with HIV when there are effective prevention measures. Pregnant women can access HIV testing, PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), viral load monitoring and management, TB screening and Prevention Therapy among other services.

According to the 2023 Guideline for Vertical Transmission Prevention of Communicable Infections by the National Department of Health, “Infections during pregnancy are a major contributing factor to perinatal morbidity and mortality. In utero infections may directly affect

the foetus and can lead to intrauterine deaths and stillbirths. The foetus may also be affected indirectly as a consequence of maternal infection leading to premature birth or foetal growth restriction”.

The national guideline has four pillars which embed a family-centered approach, acknowledging the role of partners in primary prevention, pregnancy prevention, and preventing vertical transmission.

According to GDoH’s Director of Maternal Child Health and Nutrition, Sikhonjiwe Masilela the GDoH has put in place a number of measures to deal with the preventing vertical transmission. These include:

- The prioritisation of health literacy and advocacy on knowing your status, fertility planning and encouraging those who are HIV positive and are on ARV to adhere to treatment.
- The strengthening of the principle of the first 1000 days of a child’s birth which includes education on exclusive breastfeeding during the first 6 months (and breastfeeding up to 2 years), provision of PrEP during pregnancy and breastfeeding period.
- Encouraging families and partners to support the mother and the baby during the first thousand days and beyond.
- Strengthening data collection, validation, verification, capturing and utilisation for effective and appropriate service delivery to improve the health of mothers and babies.

“In order to prevent vertical transmissions, our healthcare facilities provide HIV testing services to pregnant women at their first booking of



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko together with senior management at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital meeting with representatives from Edwards Lifesciences, a global leader in patient-focused medical innovations for structural heart disease, as well as critical care and surgical monitoring.

This is part of efforts to advance critical care services in the province by introducing the first ever Hemodynamics Centre of Excellence/Education in the Gauteng public healthcare. Hemodynamics is how your blood flows through your arteries and veins and the forces that affect your blood flow. The Centre of Education will focus on equipping Intensive Care or Critical Care doctors with skills and expertise in Hemodynamics.

#AsibeHealthyGP

antenatal visit, and testing is repeated at every scheduled antenatal visit. This is why we cannot stress enough the importance of antenatal care services.

“To further ensure prevention of mother to child transmission, we also recommend that after giving birth, mothers test for HIV every three months while breastfeeding and that they get initiated on PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Partner testing is also highly encouraged,” explains Masilela.





# Training centre to accelerate development of healthcare professionals

The development of healthcare professionals in the West Rand District Health Services to improve the provision of quality healthcare received a major boost when Premier Panyaza Lesufi accompanied by MEC for Health and Wellness Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko opened the district’s first regional training centre on Friday, 12 July 2024.

Located at the Sterkfontein Psychiatric Hospital, the newly established West Rand District Health Services Training Centre will serve as a

hub for training nurses, clinicians, and support staff, equipping them with the necessary skills to enhance service delivery and manage health facilities more effectively, ensuring that healthcare services are accessible, efficient, and of high quality. This facility will also contribute towards community empowerment by increasing health literacy and education and promote sustainable health practices.

In the past, the West Rand District Health services had to outsource venues for training, and this had a negative impact on the amount of training the district was able to undertake. This affected the quality of healthcare provided to the community.

When opening the facility, Premier Lesufi highlighted government’s commitment in enhancing healthcare services through strategic partnerships and innovation. He stressed the importance of the centre in supporting new ideas and embracing technology.

“It is about time we modernise our health institutions; this training centre needs to be fully utilized to produce well trained health professionals that will compete in the highest level. Workers trained in here need to provide quality healthcare from the knowledge received to make the community prefer public health services,” said Lesufi.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko stressed the significance of continuous capacitation of healthcare workers. “This centre will serve as a beacon of continuous professional development, where our staff can regularly enhance their skills and stay well-informed of the latest advancements in healthcare technology and practices.”

She further pointed out that staff currently on programmes like the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and community service will also benefit from this intervention leading to improved service delivery.



# DESTIGMATISING MENTAL ILLNESS

Let’s educate ourselves about mental health to reduce the stigma and discrimination that people with mental illness are often subjected to.

Get mental illness assessment, counselling and treatment services at your nearest healthcare facility.

# Lebone and GCoN aim to offer globally competitive training

Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has committed to ensure that the Gauteng Department of Health’s (GDoH) two institutions of learning, Lebone College of Emergency Care (LCOEC) and the Gauteng College of Nursing (GCoN) are adequately supported to fulfill their training mandate.

The MEC made this commitment during an oversight visit to the two institutions on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 while engaging with the principals and management on the necessary support needed to produce skilled health professionals for the healthcare sector.

The LCOEC is the only Provincial College in Gauteng providing training in Emergency Medical Care programmes including a Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care and Diploma in Emergency Medical Care, and other short courses for existing health professionals.



GCON is a government operated accredited college that provides training in nursing qualifications including Diploma in Nursing, Advanced Diploma in Midwifery and postgraduate diploma programmes which include Adult Critical Care Nursing, Child Nursing, Midwifery and Primary Care Nursing.

“We are committed to ensuring that our institutions provide world class training opportunities. We need to get gain best practices from our counterparts across the globe to ensure that we produce a skilled workforce for our health facilities.

“Our goal is to ensure that both Lebone and GCoN become world-class institutions offering globally accredited qualifications. We have received a number of accreditations in the

previous months, and more are still expected to come,” said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The LCOEC is currently engaged in training around 1 200 Basic Ambulance Assistant interns recruited through the #NasilsSpani campaign. The majority of these interns have for many years struggled to get employment due to lack of training. The aspiring paramedics are getting a monthly stipend for a period of 12 months while receiving essential training and valuable work experience, enabling them to become employable and market-ready in the field of emergency care.

The LCOEC has also undertaken an initiative to expand its First Responder Programme to communities in townships, informal settlements and hostels across the province, surpassing the target for 2023 of 2 500 with over 3 200 individuals successfully trained.

Through the GCoN, thousands of Diploma in Nursing graduates have been successfully placed in community service programmes across Gauteng public hospitals, community health centres and clinics.

In addition, these two institutions are playing a critical role in upskilling already employed health professionals across healthcare facilities in the province. With the LCOEC having gained an accreditation from the American Health Association, the college will now offer Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support courses.



# Traditional healers undergo mental health training



Sandile Gwayi

It is estimated that about 80% of Africa’s population relies on traditional medicine for their basic health needs. As a result of this, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) is ensuring the inclusion of Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) in Primary Healthcare activities.

To further ensure their full participation in their communities, 230 traditional healers across the province participated in a series of mental health training workshops from 2 July until 11 July 2024. The workshop aimed to provide them with a deep understanding of mental health and equip them with the skills they need to support clients with mental health disorders, and advise the relevant channels they can receive assessment, counselling and treatment.

Some of the topics that were covered include an overview of common mental health conditions, basic counselling skills, the role of occupational therapy throughout the life stages, the clinical and advocacy work that social workers perform within

*We now have knowledge that can assist with best practices when it comes to patients who present with mental illness disorders. This also affords us an opportunity to collaborate to provide the best care to our clients.”*  
~ *Queenin Martin*

the district, epilepsy and the clinical management of the condition and mental health service provision at the clinics.

The workshops were attended by different categories of THPs such as diviners, traditional bed attendants, herbalists and traditional surgeons who engaged in robust discussions with the medical professions in various fields including Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers and Nurses.

Queenin Martin one of the THPs chairpersons was among attendees in Soweto and said that the training has been long overdue as there are some areas which created confusion between the western and traditional practices.

“We now have knowledge that can assist with best practices when it comes to patients who present with mental illness disorders. This also affords us an opportunity to collaborate to provide the best care to our clients,” said Martin.

Rulaine Smith, the Deputy Director for Occupational Therapy in the Johannesburg District Health Services said that the workshop is in line with this year’s Mental Illness Month theme of “access and inclusion: why Community Health is important”, which aims to highlight the role that communities play in ensuring access and inclusion of people with psychosocial disabilities.”

“This was relevant for traditional healers as most of the community members often consult with them first before visiting their healthcare facilities. They are part of our communities and are pivotal in ensuring access and inclusion for users seeking services for mental illness,” said Smith.



**MATTERS TO US!**

## Clinic staff complimented for professionalism and compassionate care

Onverwacht Clinic

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Onverwacht clinic management and staff for your unwavering dedication and compassionate care. Thank you for being exceptional for your recommendation and treatment, I feel better now, your contribution won't go unrecognized. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your excellent treatment and care.

Mkovu Dalison  
July 2024

Kanana Clinic

I am honestly writing this compliment to Sr Hondo for the treatment she gave to us on 23 May 2024, she really showed that she is indeed a professional nurse, who knows how to treat the patients, a very welcoming nurse with the spirit of Ubuntu, she even showed that she can go extra miles to help the patients. Thank you, a million times sister Hondo. I was also impressed with the service that I received at the pharmacy.

Teboho Motaung  
July 2024

\* 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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**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**

Operational Manager General Pna5 – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Clinical Program Coordinator: Quality Assurance – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing General (Area) Day & Night Shifts – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Ultrasound-Sonographer: Grade 1/2/3 – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Pharmacist Assistant (Qualified Post-Basic Pharmacist Assistant) Grade 1- Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Sessional Medical Specialist Grade1/2/3- Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Medical Specialist – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Medical Specialist – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty (Pnb3) – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Officer Grade 1 – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Permanent Medical Officer – Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Registrar [Medical] Radiation Oncology – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Speech Therapist /Audiologist – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1, 2 And 3 – Carletonville FPS
Speech Therapy Assistant – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Pnb4 Assistant Manager Nursing (Re-Advertisement) – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Pna5 Operational Manager: General (Re-Advertisement) – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Pna7 Assistant Manager General: Nursing (Night Duty) – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Pn-B1-2 Professional Nurse Specialty – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Staff Nurse/Enrolled Nurse Grade: 1-2 – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Social Worker Grade 1 – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Registrar (Obs And Gynae) – Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Officer (Urology) – Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Medical Specialist – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Medical Specialist – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Sessional Medical Specialist – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital

Session Medical Specialist – Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing (Pna7) General – Bheki Mlangeni District Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing General (Area) – ODI District Hospital
Operational Manager-General Female Medical Ward Grade 1 (Pn-A5) – ODI District Hospital
Artisan Production Grade A – ODI District Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 – ODI District Hospital
Oral Hygiene Grade 1-3 – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Production Radiographer (Mammographer) Grade 1 – Helen Joseph Hospital
Medical Registrar (Surgery) Grade 1 – Helen Joseph Hospital
Assistant Manager- Nursing – Pna-7 (General Stream) – Helen Joseph Hospital
Registrar [Orthopaedics] – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty (Pnb3) – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty (Pnb3) – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Social Worker Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Speech Therapist Grade 1
Speech Therapist / Speech And Audiologist Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Operational Manager Nursing Specialty (Pn-B3) – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Officer Grade 1 – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1
Registrar – University Of Pretoria Oral Health Centre
Speech Therapist Grade 1 – Tambo Memorial Hospital
Head Clinical Unit Grade 1 (Internal Medicine) – Tambo Memorial Hospital
Radiographer Grade 1 – Tambo Memorial Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing Area: Specialty Obstetrics And Gynaecology – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Speciality Pnb-1 (Child Nursing Science, Advanced Paediatric And Neonatal Nursing Science, Advanced Midwifery And Neonatal Nursing Science, Intensive Care Nursing Science, Operating Theatre Nursing Science, Trauma And Emergency Nursing Science, Orthopaedic Nursing Science, Science, Advanced Psychiatric Nursing Science – Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Enrolled Nurse (Covid-19 Contract) – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Enrolled Nursing Assistants (Covid-19 Contract) – Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Trauma Nursing – Sebokeng Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Orthopaedic – Sebokeng Hospital
Pn-B3 Operational Manager Nursing Specialty – Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Quality Assurance Manager: Assistant Manager Nursing- Pna-7 – Bertha Gxowa 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).