Since the 1980s private health has been promoted, particularly through deregulation. Today 16 per cent of the population utilize private health, costing R36 billion a year. This is more than the R32 billion spent by the public health sector that covers the remaining 84 per cent of the population. Over-servicing in private health has driven medical inflation to over 300 per cent in real terms since the 1980s. The poor are completely priced out of this private health market. The poor instead use the public sector that, due to fiscal constraints, has seen public health spending per person fall by 15 per cent in real terms since 1996, resulting in deteriorating health care for the poor. In addition, there has been a massive shift of key health professionals from the under-funded public sector into the private sector, increasing the public health crisis. The effect of the amendments to health care legislation in South Africa have been marked and drastic; ranging from the elimination of risk rating in respect of the provision of private medical funding, the liberalization of pharmacy ownership; the introduction of price regulation in respect of the provision and sale of medicines and scheduled substances. Although the public sector is under resourced and over-used, the strategic plans and strategies put in place by the national and provincial governments strive to increase the quality and efficiency of the country’s health systems. These plans strive to achieve accountability, transparency and sustainability of the country’s health care system in line with the developmental goals.

Conference overview:
This conference seeks to provide a forum for discussing the various themes that make up South Africa’s private health care system. It will provide the perfect platform to drive the industry forward and achieve strategies for sustainable capacity, a forum to reaffirm the sectors shared commitment to implement plans. The time for those in the health care sector to come together to network, debate and drive growth. The main conference activities include:

- Evaluation of alternative sources of finance for improved provision of health services
- Equity issues within the health sector, especially in terms of the distribution of health and health care resources between different socio-economic groups
- Access to and utilization of health services
- Evaluation of the geographic allocation of health care resources
- The role of the private health sector, and public/private sector mix issues
- Regulation of pharmaceuticals
Managing Private Healthcare in S.A

Speaker Panel:

Dr Thandi Puoane, Associate Professor, School of Public Health  
Dr Nicola Theron, Director & Economist, Econex, Cape Town  
Nandi Mokoena, Strategic Relations Co-ordinator; Policy and External, Competition Commission of S.A.  
Otto Wypkema, Managing Director, Arwyp Medical Centre, Kempton Park  
Prof. Marc Blockman, Chairperson of Executive committee, Pharmaceutical Care Management, Cape Town  
Dr Kgosi Letlape, SAMA Chairperson, South African Medical Association, Johannesburg  
Dr Lindiwe Zungu, Dept of Environment and Occupational Health, University of Limpompo (MEDUNSA)  
Heidi Kruger, Head of Corporate Communication, Board of Healthcare Funders, Johannesburg  
Haroon Wadee, Head Health Systems, Health Systems Trust (Finance, Economics, Policy)  
Patric Matshidze, Head: Research and Monitoring, Council for Medical Schemes  
Koert Pretorius, CEO Medi-Clinic Southern Africa, Medi-Clinic  
Dr Gobinca, Workplace Solutions Executive, Qualsa  
Dr David R. Katerere, Specialist Scientist, Medical Research Council

Target Sector including and not limited to the following sectors:

Biotechnology • Diagnostic Substances • Drug Manufacturers • Drug Related Products • Hospitals • Medical Practitioners • Medical Laboratories and Research • Medical Appliances and Equipment • Specialized Health Services • Healthcare Groups • Medical Schemes • Insurance Administrators • Department of Health • Department of Treasury

Who Should attend:

Head of Departments • Directors, Deputy Directors • Provincial and District Health Care Administrators • Hospital Administrators • Doctors and Medical Practitioners • Occupational Health and Safety Nurses • Researchers • Consumers / Public • Medical Schemes • Medical Scheme Administrators • Boards of Trustees • Brokers and Brokerages • Managed Health Care Companies • Doctors • Dentists • Pharmacists • and other providers
Day One: Monday, 18th August 2008

08h30 Registration

09h00 Opening statement by Dr Thandi Puoane, Associate Professor, School of Public Health

09h05 Keynote Address
Haroon Wadee, Head Health systems, Health Systems Trust (Economics, Finance and Equity)

09h30 Private Hospital Review 2008 (45)
• Public versus private expenditure comparisons
• Drivers of expenditure on hospitalization
• Transparency of pricing and alignment of incentives
• Concerns regarding the definitions and measurement used by CMS
• The countervailing power of medical schemes
• The private hospital sector capacity and occupancy levels
• Appropriateness of returns for hospital economic return
Koert Pretorius, CEO Medi-Clinic Southern Africa, Medi-Clinic

10h15 Open discussion & questions

10h30 Tea Break

10h45 The medical schemes industry: regulatory approach, trends, challenges & opportunities
• Regulatory approach
• Trends in the environment
• Key legislative developments
• Emerging opportunities
Mr Patrick Matshidze, Head: Research and Monitoring, Council of Medical Schemes

11h30 Open discussion & questions

11h45 The role of the independent hospitals & the challenges we face
• Competition and Transparency
• Doctor Shareholding
• Collective Bargaining
• Skills Shortage and Training
Mr Otto Wypkema, Managing Director, Arwyp Medical Centre (Pty) Ltd

12h30 Open discussion & questions

12h45 Lunch Refreshments

13h45 Interactive and Networking Sessions

14h45 Conflicts of Interests
• The patient-physician relationship is a fiduciary relationship.
• Fiduciaries have an obligation to avoid conflicts of interest.
• Gifts from the pharmaceutical industry, whether large or small, create conflicts of interest.
• Physicians should not accept any gifts from the pharmaceutical industry.
Prof Mark Blockman, Chairperson of Executive committee, Pharmaceutical Care Management

15h15 Open discussion & questions

15h30 Tea Break

15h45 Evaluation of alternative sources of finance for improved provision of health services
Dr. Kgosi Letlape, South African Medical Association (SAMA) Chairperson

16h30 Open discussion & questions

16h40 Closing Remarks by Dr Thandi Puoane, Associate Professor, School of Public Health

End of Day One
Day Two: Tuesday, 19th August 2008

08h30 Opening remarks by Dr Thandi Puoane, Associate Professor, School of Public Health

08h35 Private hospital price increases - cost drivers and the role of consolidation and increased concentration
  • Overview of consolidation in the private hospital sector during recent years;
  • Total private hospital price increases versus inflation;
  • Analysis of various cost drivers;
  • Comparison with international studies and trends;
  Dr. Nicola Theron, Director ECONEX and extraordinary senior lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Stellenbosch

09h20 Open discussion & questions

09h35 Competition in private health care
  • Competition law and its purpose
  • The Competition Commission's involvement in health care
  • Competition law as it applies to health care providers
  • Competition law as it applies to the funding sector
  Ms Nandi Mokoena, Strategic Relations Co-ordinator: Policy and External, Competition Commission of South Africa

10h20 Open discussion & questions

10h30 Tea Break

10h45 Dr Ngubekhaya Gobinca, Managing Director of Quaisa

11h45 The future of the private healthcare funding factor
  • Legislation changes
  • Access and Affordability
  • Where to from here
  Heidi Kruger, Head of Corporate Communication, Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF)

12h30 Open discussion & questions

12h45 Lunch Refreshments

13h45 Regulation of pharmacy practice in South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities
  • Outline of recent changes to legislation governing the practice of pharmacy in South Africa.
  • A look at international practice of pharmacy and new trends that might be of interest to SA context
  • Discussion of the challenges and opportunities changes here and abroad may present and how to navigate the field
  • Human resource issues and how to deal with them
  Dr David R. Katerere, Specialist Scientist, Medical Research Council

14h30 Open discussion & questions

14h45 Tea Break

15h00 Challenges and opportunities in the health sector
  • Major Challenges faced by health care workers based on current research findings: local and international perspective
  • Strategies to address such challenges
  • Suggested way forward
  Dr Lindiwe Zungu, Lecturer at the School of public Health, Department of environmental-occupational health, University of Limpopo (Medunsa)

15h45 Open discussion & questions

16h00 End of conference
Managing Private Healthcare in S.A

Registration Details and Fees
Cost per Delegate: R 7490.00 excluding VAT.
Registration fee includes lunch, refreshments and full conference documentation on CD. Delegates may be refused admission if payment is not received prior to the conference. The fee does not include hotel accommodation.

Date and Venue
Date: 18 - 19 August, 2008
Venue: CSIR ICC, Meiring Naudé Road, Brummeria
Fax your registration form to +27 (0)21 557 1807

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