

*National Health Insurance
on the road to
Universal Health Coverage*

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“Continued and oft publicized failures of the public health services to provide quality and safe health care”

- SIU authorized to investigate health department and 'Life Esidimeni' NGOs (July 2017)
- KZN health department has violated human rights: SAHRC (June 2017)
- 'Shocking' review on state of mental health services in SA (June 2017)
- Debt cripples health services, warns Gauteng MEC (May 2017)
- Every Esidimeni death will be accounted for – Motsoaledi (February 2017)
- Limpopo's financial health the worst in the country: AG report (November 2016)
- How the Free State health system is being destroyed (October 2016)
- Death, dying and silence in the Eastern Cape –the province's shortage of EMS and patient transport vehicles continues to put lives at risk. (April 2016)

“Private health Sector is profligate and unaffordable for the majority”

- South Africa has one of the most expensive private healthcare systems in the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) told the Health Market Inquiry hearings in Pretoria. (February 2016)
- Estimated that Fraud, Waste and Corruption in the private health sector could amount to as much as R22 billion per annum (7-15% of expenditure) (Health funder sources)
- Health Market Inquiry Draft Report (July 2018) indicates that overall the market is characterized by:
High and rising costs of healthcare and medical scheme cover Disempowered consumers Absence of value based purchasing Ineffective constraints on rising volumes of care Practitioners that are subject to little regulation and failure of accountability at many levels

In order to achieve quality, health care must be

- **Safe.** Delivering health care that minimizes risks and harm to service users, including avoiding preventable injuries and reducing medical errors and that is trustworthy and reliable
- **Effective.** Providing services based on scientific knowledge and evidence-based guidelines.
- **Timely.** Reducing delays in providing and receiving health care.
- **Efficient.** Delivering health care in a manner that maximizes resource use and avoids waste.
- **Equitable.** Delivering health care that does not differ in quality according to personal characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, geographical location or socioeconomic status.
- **People-centered.** Providing care that takes into account the preferences and aspirations of individual service users and the culture of their community.

(WHO definition of quality of care)

How can quality health care as envisaged by National Health Insurance be achieved?

- Focus ALL the resources currently available in the public and private health sector to address the challenge of ensuring universal access to safe and quality health care in South Africa



Health Compact – move away from a binary approach

- The possibility of a social compact for better health outcomes was a stated priority in the 10 Point Plan 2009 – 2014 of the National Department of Health
- The partnership envisaged by the *health compact* requires both parties to contribute and a change of attitude from both public and private health sectors.
 - On the part of the public sector it is essential that there is an acceptance that firstly there is a problem divorced from purely the constrained finances and secondly that assistance from outside has the potential to assist in solving it.
 - On the part of the private sector, while governed by a profit motivation, it is essential that there is a similar acceptance that the current situation is untenable in the longer term and that they too have a problem that requires a solution for which engagement with the public sector will assist.

A Health Compact is

- A focused approach with an emphasis on “*hard*” management issues to promote delivery in the broader health services
- A well-directed, constructive dialogue leading to decision-making and action that will enable a focused process to begin.
- Engaging industry leaders both public and private in this manner to commit managerial and other resources to increase the capacity to deliver health services to the majority of the South African population improving access, safety and quality.

Collectively address the challenges through a health compact with concrete steps to

- Redistribute healthcare delivery capacity
- Bolster management skills and administrative capacity and address management and governance failures
- Enable and empower managers to take decisions
- Deal decisively with the health workforce crisis by ensuring adequate numbers of appropriately trained staff
- Address lack and shortcomings in infrastructure and technology
- Become intolerant of ineptitude, fraud and corruption

CONCLUSION

The situation in South African healthcare calls for decisive action.

Utilizing all the available resources such decisive action has the potential to significantly improve the access, safety and quality of the health care provided

Thank you