
20 August 2019

HPCSA FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE STATEMENT AUGUST 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Inaugural National Conference of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) took place from 18 – 20 August 2019 at the Emperors Palace, Kempton Park.

The theme for the Conference was “Regulating the Health Professionals in the 21st Century” with a focus on the role of the regulator in Universal Health Coverage as well as looking at the Regulators' contribution towards advocating for good health and well-being.

The Conference provided an opportunity for delegates across all health sectors, health regulators, academics and other stakeholders; to engage on regulatory matters pertaining to the healthcare environment; including the shifting global and local healthcare trends.

We engaged on the outcomes of the Health Market Inquiry, the Presidential Health Summit 2018 as well as creating awareness with our stakeholders on the HPCSA mandate. The aim was to receive valuable inputs on the future role of the regulator, which will be used to re- brand the HPCSA as one of the leading health regulators in the country and abroad.

WE the participants of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), represented by the Council, the Twelve (12) Professional Boards, the respective practitioners and various stakeholders from the health sector, gathered at the 1st HPCSA National Conference held on 18th to 20th August 2019 at the Emperor’s Palace in Kempton Park, Gauteng, hereby affirm the need to regulate practitioners towards the realisation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through National Health Insurance (NHI); and thereby contribute towards achieving quality healthcare for all South Africans (including the legal long-term residents) by 2026.

We hereby affirm the three pillars necessary for the success of the NHI as the following:

- Access
- Affordability
- Quality

HAVING shared widely on various UHC issues there was strong consensus amongst those represented at the conference that:

1. Health is a human right and that UHC is essential to health for all and to human security and dignity;
2. National Health Insurance is the preferred funding model for South Africa as promulgated in the NHI Bill;
3. Without NHI, hundreds of millions of South Africans are at risk of losing the opportunity to live full and productive lives, and hundreds of millions risk impoverishment in their pursuit of health care;
4. Attaining NHI requires a responsive and proactive regulatory body
5. Attaining NHI also requires strong inter-sectoral collaboration; and
6. Adequate Human Resources for Health play a pivotal role in the realization of NHI.

THAT following the above agreed upon matters, the HPCSA in its regulatory role commits to –

1. Being a responsive and proactive regulatory body that enjoys the trust and confidence from both public, practitioners and stakeholders;
2. In line with our regulatory framework, develop and support strategies, policies and systems to harness and sustain training and education that encompasses ethics;
3. Partnering with all regulatory bodies including nursing and allied health as a key component towards the attainment of NHI;
4. Stimulate learning on innovation for NHI by accelerating the generation and sharing of critical knowledge by building on and enhancing coordination of existing and future networks.

5. Ensuring quality of education and training for Human Resources for Health for all health professional sectors;
6. Ensuring that training platforms provide for the promotion of preventative training in healthcare and multidisciplinary practices.
7. Ensuring that health information and regulation must be strengthened and aligned to the principles of the fourth industrial revolution.
8. Ensuring to commit to innovative means of expanding the training platforms in both the public and private sector.
9. To ensure a work environment that enables ethical practice both publicly and privately.

In conclusion, HPCSA hereby urges all member health regulators to play a pro-active and leading role in the Realization of Universal Health Coverage.

The End