

COHSASA staff were saddened to hear the news that the Free State Health MEC for Health, Me Fundiswa Ngubentombi, died in a car accident on her way home to Bloemfontein after attending a World AIDS Day event on December 1. We extend our deep condolences to her colleagues, friends and her family.



COHSASA CEO appointed to ISQua groups

Good news coming from ISQua (the International Society for Quality in Health Care) is that our CEO, Professor Stuart Whittaker, has not only been invited to join a recently established group known as the ISQua Expert Group but has also been appointed to the Board Advisory Committee (BAC) of ISQua. The Expert Group is a resource bank of safety and quality healthcare...

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Free State Province sets strategy on patient safety

The Free State Province is determined to improve clinical governance and patient safety at its health institutions through a formal strategy and the establishment of feasible monitoring and evaluation structures.

Many of these were explored at a two-day workshop...

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Contact the editor of Quality Online, Marilyn Keegan [here](#).

COHSASA assists with the implementation of the National Core Standards

With the introduction of the South African National Department of Health's National Core Standards (NCS) COHSASA has been given the opportunity of working with the Department of Health in Limpopo to assist 20 district hospitals implement the NCS through a capacity building and quality improvement programme. It has also developed IT tools and methods to allow the two sets of standards to be evaluated simultaneously.

Says Prof Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA, "We are ready to assist the National Department of Health in any way we can to ensure that patients in South Africa will be able to receive safe and quality care."

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Africa in our sights...

COHSASA's strategic decision to expand its horizons further afield in Africa is paying dividends with an expanding client base on the continent, particularly in the SADEC countries. To date it has worked in 10 countries - Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Lesotho, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria with more coming on stream in the...

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Second group of SafeCare Surveyors trained in Nairobi

A second group of nine SafeCare surveyors was trained by COHSASA Chief Surveyor Dr Giel van Schalkwyk at the Jacaranda Hotel in Nairobi with a 100% pass rate! In attendance was Dr Christine Deurman, Senior Quality Manager at SafeCare (PharmAccess) who observed the process...

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GP accreditation programme ready to fly...

The development of an accreditation programme for General and Family practitioners is now well established and is ready to be piloted after wide consultation with appropriate GP groups including the South African Medical Association, various IPAs and the IPA Foundation, EMC, the SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care, the Board of Healthcare Funders, Discovery Health, Medihelp...

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Perseverance pays dividends in Quality

During the past 17 years there has been a noticeable trend in COHSASA's history: loyal clients. This is interesting given the nature of quality improvement programmes which, in effect, ask clients to pay for a hearty shove from their comfort zone. Some clients do find it quite difficult at the start of the programme but many of them keep coming back because as quality efforts gain traction and become...

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Elim Clinic reaps the rewards of accreditation

COHSASA's clients are loyal. Take the Elim Clinic in Kempton Park which was recently accredited for three years for a fifth time, achieving a score of 99! What keeps the clinic coming back since it first entered the programme way back in 1999?

Elize Smith, Managing Director of the Elim Clinic...

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