

Summary of Health Issues in South Africa

Tuesday, 3rd May 2016

Judge MP Canca overturned the HPCSA decision refusing Nedcare the use of medical physicists and radiotherapists in its oncology unit. This ground breaking decision was concurred to by Judge Nicolene Janse van Nieuwenhuizen. A recommendation was made that Nedcare should outsource these experts, the court however found this did not make sense.

These experts in Nedcare's 54 private hospitals were not employed to determine whether treatment should be administered, they merely helped in giving the treatment initiated by an oncologist. There was no malpractice of trying for Nedcare to gain financially, these professionals did not get any additional financial rewards for their efforts.

The HPCSA argument was that this was not in adherence to its ethical framework. In contradiction, the Judge opinioned this defied logic, citing a possibility of unconstitutionality as this opinion could be perceived to be seen as unfairly discriminating against private hospitals.

RESEARCH: ZELDA VENTER: THE STAR, 3RD MAY 2016

Once again the HPCSA is in the spotlight as they refuse for specialists to be registered with them unless they have completed their Master's degree in medicine. Of interest this goes in direct contradiction to the Durban High Court's ruling last year, compelling the Register to register 34 Durban doctors who had not yet completed their Master's degree, the condition being that they indeed do so in two years.

RESEARCH: KAMININ PADAYACHEE & LISA ISAACS: THE STAR, 3 MAY 2016

Cape Town has two fake doctors who are to appear in the Althonos Magistrates' court after being found to attending to and prescribing medicine to patients. They also write fraudulent sick notes. This was brought to light when policeman acted as patients, paying the "doctors" a fee and asking for a sick note. Staff of the "doctors" ere also found to be paid in cash daily, with no record of their salaries. It was discovered that these "doctors" ran four other practices. A registered doctor was used to make medical aid claims and made use of his stamp to forge the sick notes.

RESEARCH: SIPOKAZI FOKAZI: CAPE ARGUS, 3 MAY 2016