

Summary of Health Issues in South Africa

Wednesday, 4th May 2016

Due to the rising and often unaffordable costs of private health care in South Africa, approximately one third of all cardiac patients seen at Steve Biko hospital fall into this category of patient. They had either run out of benefits or could no longer afford to belong to a medical aid scheme due to the cost of monthly premiums.

Statistically, 173 cardiologists are in South Africa, 35 of which work in the public sector. There is an estimation of a need of 200 to service the needs of state patients alone, currently only 6 qualifying each year. An example of the cost of treatment in a private facility of a child with heart failure was in the region of R2 million, the medical aid scheme noted to be unaffordable.

RESEARCH: TAMAR KAHN: BDLIVE, 4TH MAY 2016

There is a new 'superbug' klbsiella bacteria has effected nine babies in KwaZulu-Natal and now common in South African health facilities. There are different types of the bacteria and it is felt that it is not uncommon or unusual in those with weak immune systems and newly born babies.

RESEARCH: MATTHEW SAVIDE: THE TIMES, BUCHULE RABA: TMG DIGITAL, 3RD MAY 2016

The Western Cape boasts significantly lower mortality rates of mothers giving birth. This is directly linked to the 700 midwives active in the Province's public sector. Nearly 50% of all births were attended to by midwives this ongoing training and implementation of the use of midwives has not only saved lives, but relieved a financial burden on the state as well.

RESEARCH: SIPOKAZI FOKAZI: CAPE ARGUS, 4TH MAY 2016