NHI Pharmacy Stakeholders Consultative Forum

Pharmacy in NHI – Towards Universal Health Coverage in South Africa

“An opportunity to reshape the future for the pharmacy profession”

The publication of the National Health Insurance (NHI) White Paper on 30 June 2017, combined with the acceptance of some 80 countries, including South Africa, of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in 2012, presents the profession of pharmacy with both challenges and opportunities. Many professional associations and individual pharmacists, in various practice settings, took the opportunity to contribute to the White Paper through submissions at various stages of its development. Unfortunately, until September 2017, there was little done to use these submissions to provide one comprehensive narrative on the pharmacy profession’s role in UHC through NHI for South Africa.

There is sufficient evidence in the White Paper to suggest that it is Government’s intention to utilise all available professional resources to achieve UHC. More importantly, an explicit role for the pharmacist and pharmacy support personnel (PSP) can be found in various parts of the White Paper. This is particularly important in view of the expression in 2010 of the intention of Government to re-engineer the primary health care system.

At a meeting in May 2017 with the Director General of Health (DG), Ms Precious Matsoso, some tough questions were asked of the profession, which has created a window of opportunity to re-evaluate its position and bring the profession together to provide a way forward. What was apparent from the meeting was that the National Department of Health (NDoH) needs to engage with a unified profession with a common vision and purpose to address the many challenges that will present themselves along the way.

Following the meeting with the DG, a joint task team was established, in order to formulate a plan and to map a way forward. It was clear to the team that the following is required:

1. An inclusive approach
2. A consultative process based on democratic principles
3. The use of the extensive expertise in pharmacy together with our available resources to map a programme of action
4. A patient-centric focus

Objectives

The intention is to allow pharmacy, as a profession, to create a comprehensive document outlining the various roles that pharmacy could play within the wider development of the NHI and its services. The document will further form the template on which various sectors of the profession can base their day-to-day activities. This will allow for standard setting and quality control to ensure that measurable outcomes from which we can build and improve services to achieve the vision of quality pharmaceutical care for all our citizens through UHC.

The Establishment of the NHI Pharmacy Stakeholders Consultative Forum (NHI Pharmacy Forum)

The NHI Pharmacy Forum was established in September 2017, to explore new models of care that can be delivered through, or by, pharmacy to provide a coherent narrative for the profession’s role in NHI. It is important to note that all interested pharmacies (or groups of pharmacies) and pharmacists (or groups of pharmacists) are welcome to become members of this Forum and to contribute their knowledge and views to the Forum’s work.

Establishment of the NHI Steering Committee

The NHI Pharmacy Forum, at its first meeting (September 2017), established a NHI Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) with representatives from every sector of pharmacy to co-ordinate all the groups and to oversee the processes. In order to increase efficiency of the Steering Committee, a representative from every stakeholder group was invited to form the core committee.

Composition of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee brought together expertise from across the pharmacy profession and key stakeholders, in the form of an advisory group of pharmacists and healthcare specialists.

The Steering Committee is able to co-opt experts onto the committee as required, to assist with the development of the pharmacy document. The group is only advisory in nature and not intended to be representative of different sectors or organisations.
NEWS

It comprises one representative, and if appropriate an alternate.

1. Pharmacy

1.1. Manufacturing Pharmacy
   1.1.1. Local manufacturers
   1.1.2. Multi-national manufacturers

1.2. Wholesale and Distribution

1.3. Community Pharmacy
   1.3.1. Corporate Pharmacy
   1.3.2. Courier Pharmacy
   1.3.3. Independent Pharmacy

1.4. Institutional Pharmacy
   1.4.1. Private Institutional

1.5. Information Technology

1.6. Academia

1.7. Pharmacist and Pharmacy Associations
   1.7.1. APSSA
   1.7.2. BPIA
   1.7.3. ICPA
   1.7.4. PLASA
   1.7.5. PTG (SMASA, GBM, IPASA, PHARMISA)
   1.7.6. PSSA
   1.7.7. SAACP
   1.7.8. SASOCP
   1.7.9. SAAHIP
   1.7.10. SAAPI

2. National Department of Health

2.1. Sector Wide Procurement

2.2. Affordable Medicines

2.3. Heads of Pharmaceutical Services representative

3. Regulatory bodies (by invitation)

3.1. SAPC

3.2. SAHPRA

3.3. CMS

It is important to note that each member must represent and articulate the views of his/her stakeholder community and provide feedback to his/her community as appropriate.

Accountability

The Steering Committee is accountable to the NHI Pharmacy Forum and members of this Forum are accountable to their respective constituency or sector. Final decisions about content and publication of the strategic document remain the responsibility of the NHI Pharmacy Forum, where decisions will be made by consensus. Day-to-day operational issues will be taken at the Steering Committee level.

Queries

Any queries regarding the NHI Pharmacy Forum and/or Steering Committee can be directed to the Secretariat at pharmacy.stakeholders@gmail.com.

Communication

The Steerering Community is excited to present this first brief and congratulates all the participating sectors in coming together in unity on this important project.

Annexure A

Abbreviations for pharmacist or pharmacy organisations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APSSA</td>
<td>Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPIA</td>
<td>Black Pharmaceutical Industry Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>Council of Medical Schemes</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBM</td>
<td>Generic and Biosimilar Medicines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICPA</td>
<td>Independent Community Pharmacy Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPASA</td>
<td>Innovative Pharmaceutical Association South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARMISA</td>
<td>Pharmaceuticals Made In South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLASA</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Logistics Association of South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSSA</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa</td>
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<td>PTG</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Task Group</td>
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<td>SAACP</td>
<td>South African Association of Community Pharmacists</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAAHIP</td>
<td>South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAAPI</td>
<td>South African Association of Pharmacists in Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMASA</td>
<td>Self-Medication Manufacturers Association of South Africa</td>
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i. A pharmacy or group of pharmacies listed on the JSE
ii. List of abbreviations in Annexure A
iii. List of abbreviations in Annexure A