

40th World Hospital Congress to address patient-centred care and safety

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National Department of Health
Press Release

The Department of Health, in partnership with the International Hospital Federation (IHF), and supported by the Hospital Association of South Africa (HASA) and Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF), will host the 40th World Hospital Congress (IHF2006 Durban) at the Durban ICC from 31 October to 3 November.

This is the first time that this meeting is held on the African continent. The choice of host reflects the uniqueness of the event. The congress is being held as South Africa embarks on the National Health Insurance (NHI), to achieve universal health coverage in keeping with its commitment to deliver the best possible health care outcomes to all South Africans.

The Congress will be convened under the theme; *"Addressing The Challenge of Patient-Centred Care and Safety"*, to ensure that deliberations are focussed on "The Patient", which is also a reflection of the country's commitment to quality of care and patient welfare.

It also provides the opportunity to position the role of the hospital sector within the current international commitment to Universal Health Coverage and the broader South African Government policy.

Many of the challenges faced by public sector hospitals in South Africa and elsewhere, are located "downstream" and persist despite significant gains being made in other areas of the health system. Many of these challenges are rooted in weak management capacity and weak systems, so it is hoped that the hosting of this meeting will deliver concrete lessons on how to:

- nurture and train effective and accountable health leaders;
- develop and deploy systems that promote quality care and ensure patient safety;
- engage new technologies and clinical innovations in order to facilitate patient health and healing and;
- effectively administer and position hospitals within a primary health care led system

This global meeting has drawn speakers from no less than thirteen countries around the globe, and a diverse range of healthcare stakeholders from public and private sectors, to exchange experiences and showcase health care innovations. The delegates include hospital executives and management, pharmaceutical and medical schemes leaders.

This is a unique forum where multidisciplinary exchange of knowledge, expertise and experiences in health sector management and service delivery is facilitated. Leaders of key national and international hospital and healthcare organisations, drivers of healthcare policy, management, financial trends and solutions will attend the Congress to engage on best practices in hospital and healthcare management, and delivery of services. IHF members will showcase their accomplishments to peers and the rest of the global healthcare community, to enhance knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals.

The Congress programme, is in its main, scientific in its objective but allows opportunities for engagement by industry role players, and offer them through the exhibition and sponsorship programmes visibility, by showcasing their products and networking with peers.

The Minister of Health, South Africa, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, will grace the Congress as a keynote speaker.

For registration please visit: <https://www.ihf-fih.org/ihfcongress?info>

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