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Private Practice Review 2 April 2026

HealthMan

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

NHI faces critical legal test

Parliament's National Health Insurance (NHI) bill is set for the Constitutional Court (CC) to review whether Parliament followed proper public participation when passing the law.

Business Times (26 April 2026)

President Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to argue before the Court that the NHI is a necessary step to address deep inequality in access to healthcare (whether from anywhere).

Meanwhile, the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF), representing medical schemes covering about 9.6m people, claims the consultation process was inadequate and lacked meaningful debate. Estimates suggest the NHI could cost between R400bn and over R700 annually.

Other bodies with pressing challenges that are currently on hold pending this outcome include the Medical Schemes Amendment Bill, the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill, the Medical Association and Private Practitioners Forum.

If the Court finds that the legislative process was flawed, it could order Parliament to redo the process, which would mean the NHI legislative pathway and draft policies process, like the 2019 White Paper, will restart.

A favourable ruling could accelerate policy certainty, even as funding and operational questions persist. Ultimately, the outcome will shape the trajectory of universal health coverage and healthcare reform in SA.

NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT

Gauteng waiting lists up to 10 years at public hospitals

Gauteng patients who need hip replacements are waiting between three and 10 years on public hospital lists, Gauteng Health MEC Jason Phillips has revealed.

The Citizen (24 April 2026)

Hospitals with the longest waiting times for hip replacement surgery include Chris Hani Baragwanath, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg, Helen Joseph, Tembisa, Kalafong and Sebokeng.

Patients prioritised to receive additional specialised clinicians and coverted to prioritising reports to theatre equipment.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Court orders release of medical records in listeriosis case

The Gauteng High Court ordered the release of confidential medical records to the legal team of 16 claimants in the Listeria outbreak against Tiger Brands.

"Neverthe, a supplier to a major national supermarket is likely to be charged with a R1m fine for listeria-contaminated products that resulted in a massive recall in March 2018.

Tiger Brands has been ordered to release Medicolegal Health Laboratory Service, the Ministries of Health and Tiger Brands-related entities.

The lingering case follows the loss of at least 216 lives in the 2017 outbreak linked to the Tiger Brands Enterprise processing facility in Pretoriaville. The case involves multiple hundreds of people who claimed they became ill or died linked to ready-to-eat products from the facility.

Tiger Brands processed rediffered offers to several claimants.

Medical Brief (24 April 2026)

Solid profit and growth for Clicks

Clicks Group (Clicks) reported a 7.6% increase in revenue to R14.5-billion and a 9.8% rise in operating earnings increased 8.4% to R1.9bn.

Business Day (24 April 2026)

"Clicks increased its footprint to 1,003 stores. The national pharmacy network expanded to 796. This group plans to open 60-100 new stores and the same number of new pharmacies in the 2026 financial year. It will also plan 10 differentiated concept stores in the second half of the year.

More spent on weight-loss, fitness & cosmetic surgery

Medical aesthetic procedures, including weight-loss and cosmetic surgery that were contracted out paying for fitness support, structured weight-loss programmes and cosmetic procedures.

Bizcommunity (23 April 2026)

About 10% of surveyed consumers said they had spent money on diabetes or weight-loss drugs and 10% used weight-loss medicines, including semaglutide and other GLP-1 medicines.

Consumers who use prescribed weight-loss medicines also reported broader changes in lifestyle spending.

Funding cuts cripple HIV drug distribution

A report by Physicians for Human Rights warns that US-led funding cuts have left millions of people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa without access to life-saving medicines.

Reduced support, particularly through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), has weakened critical delivery systems needed to distribute **lenacapavir** a highly effective long-acting prevention injection.

Despite SA receiving initial doses, experts say infrastructure collapse threatens sustainable access. The report highlights how decades of HIV/AIDS pharmacy support of progress in 90 pharmacies. While the government made temporary funding commitments, rebuilding delivery platforms remains a major challenge under growing financial strain.

Business Day (21 April 2026)

PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS

Over-the-counter brands under scrutiny

The SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) is to review the regulatory status of over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription (Rx) products to assess their effectiveness.

Business Day (22 April 2026)

The move follows scrutiny by the US Food and Drug Administration which found the ingredient ivermectin at standard doses.

Industry groups, including the Pharmaceutical Task Group, argue that combination products should be treated as a single medicine. The Pharmacy Practice Notes support evidence-based regulation but seen a gradual transition.

A stakeholder meeting will guide next steps as concerns grow over treatment alternatives, costs and access, relating this to broader lack of standards for medicine registration.

Biovac to expand vaccine manufacturing

Vaccine production Biovac is mapped for Cape Town operations to develop and expand production of viral diseases vaccines, reported **Business Day** (21 April 2026).

The financial agreement for the project includes a R75m capital investment from the European Investment Bank (EIB Group) and a $20m loan the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The expansion project is expected to cost up to R230m in total.

This initiative is a vital step in strengthening African vaccine manufacturing and improving continental health security against future pandemics.

China overtakes the US in pharmaceutical research

China overtaken pharmaceutical industry has shifted from Western dominance to a competitive landscape where China now leads in clinical research, reported **Bizcommunity** (22 April 2026).

According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* the number of Chinese drug clinical trials increased from 1,000 in 2009 to 7,500 in 2024, surpassing the US for the first time in 2023. China initiated more clinical trials than the US in 2024 across oncology, cardiovascular, lower, chronic clinical trials, regulatory reforms and maturing research-based centres.

GENERAL NEWS

Diabetes: a 'loud national emergency'

SA's diabetes burden is nearing from "silent epidemic" to loud national emergency, reported **Daily Maverick** (24 April 2026).

Following the 2025 Diabetes Summit, a coalition of civil society organisations recently launched the Diabetes Alliance South Africa (DASA) to drive systemic change. The coalition includes Cancer Alliance, Healthy Living Alliance (HALA), Doctors Without Borders, the Diaverica Trust, Health Foundation and Mesh Sleep.

Diabetes is now the second leading cause of death in SA and half of cases undiagnosed. HALA requested stronger political will, including recognising diabetes as a public health crisis and increasing the sugar tax. It also called for zero-tired reforms, a national diabetes strategy and primary care integration to improve diagnosis, treatment and integrated patient support.

Programme to help doctors to become practice owners

SA is launching a six-month pilot programme to help doctors become practice owners and manage healthcare entrepreneurs. This programme is the initiative of Pharmacy Direct, in partnership with the Community with Ms Health and Wellness SA (CWHWSA).

The Citizen (22 April 2026).

The aim is to train up to 1,000 clinicians over time, combining classroom learning with practical experience and skills in established practices.

The programme will focus on underdiagnosed doctors, community service graduates and those entering private practice. The curriculum covers business design, billing systems, compliance, marketing, patient management and practice sustainability.

The participants can access R150,000 grants, while further funding of up to R1m is available for expansion.

The initiative aims to address South Africa's poor capacity, support innovation and expand access to care, particularly in underserved areas. Its enabling doctors to build resilient, independent healthcare businesses.

1,076 confirmed measles cases

New sur-evidence data from the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) between 20 December 2025 and 21 April 2026 shows 1,076 confirmed measles cases nationally, reported **Times** (24 April 2026).

Children under five remain the most affected, with 19.7% years, while 17.2 of the cases are 15 and older.

The NICD recorded measles-positive healthcare samples in Gauteng, specifically in Ekurhuleni, the City of Tshwane and the City of Johannesburg districts. Positive samples were also reported in North West, North West and the Western Cape.

Malaria cases on the rise in Gauteng

Gauteng Health released an urgent warning following the rise in malaria cases and deaths in the province, reported **Times** (24 April 2026).

Gauteng health MEC Jason Phillips said the surge is linked to malaria endemic regions during the summer rainfall season, with most cases being "imported" from the high rates of transmission. The regions include Limpopo and Mpumalanga, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Although the illness is preventable and treatable, delay in seeking treatment is the major contributing factor leading to the deaths. Gauteng health is on the 5th quarter of 2026.

NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES

Unions to 'force' reform in healthcare funding

SA's two major union federations, Cosatu and Federal Trade, have issued a stand-alone warning that the country's healthcare funding model is pricing workers out of cover. This follows COSATU's 81% increase in medical scheme tariffs in January 2026.

TimesLive (24 April 2026)

Cosatu and Federal Trade are prepared to use multiple levers to force reform including strategically through Section 77 provisions of Nehlar, mandated engagement in Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) and coordinated mass action. The unions have called political interventions also on the table, without specifying public advocacy.

They argue that the current approach is "unsustainable, too expensive and being manipulated". The unions have called for a "fundamental rethinking" of the system, arguing that the models is inappropriate and that medical schemes offered in law become a serious social and economic concern.

HEALTHMAN DIARY

7 - 12 May
AAAHC Congress 2026

13 - 16 May
Medical Congress
Sandton Convention Centre

13 May
SASOP/PhuzaMS: Roadshow Southern Gauteng

14 May
SASOP/PhuzaMS: Roadshow North West

15 May
Pharmacy Indaba
Policy Direction and Regulatory Expectations for Doctor SA Reform
Sandton Convention Centre

6 - 7 June
Medical conference - Melinda Arch
Essential Ingredients for Private Practice

12 June
SASOP/PhuzaMS: CE Roadshow
Finance Psychiatry Seminar
Mary Jo Wurtner

20 August
SASOP/PhuzaMS: Roadshow North West

25 - 28 August
Medical Congress: Pain, Power and Possibility - Locating Freedom in 2026, Your Five Year Plan

17 September
SASOP/PhuzaMS Roadshow
Durban

2-4 October
SAP Conference - Lush Charles Nadel
Sandton Sun

21 October
SASOP/PhuzaMS Roadshow
Gaborone

22 October
SASOP/PhuzaMS Roadshow
Cape Town

23-25 October
PMC Congress - Zimbali

5 - 11 November
Annual SAMRA Congress
Montreux Kwa-Zulu
Youth Mental Health in Africa & Diaspora

CMS CIRCULARS

CMS Circulars published in April 2026

No new Circulars released since 16 April 2026

SPECIAL NOTES

Selling your practice?

HealthMan has been doing valuations of medical practices for sale for many years. We can do a full financial report on the value of your practice if you consider selling it to an interested buyer.

We will also provide you with a draft sales contract.

Contact us for valuation of your practice and for more information if you are not yet in the process of selling.

For more information contact:
Cheryl Nathan at cheryl@hmsa.co.za or
Cassey Nathan at cassey@healthman.co.za

Practice for sale

Dr JH Snyman (surgeon) is selling his practice in Vanderbijlpark.

Contact:
Mrs A Snyman (practice manager)
Tel: +27 16 882 8042

Consulting Rooms Available: Atlantis

Upmarket consulting room available for a healthcare professional. Should suit GP, aesthetic doctors, dermatologists, gynaecologists, ENT, opticians, OT, psychologists, psychiatrists, dentists.

- Sessional (furnished) or full-time (unfurnished) options
- Ideal for new practice
- Secure and adequate parking
- Includes WiFi and cleaning
- Access to medical theatre and endoscopy

For more information:
079 213 3437
hello@confirmdevelopers.co.za

Vacancy for five full-time Psychologists

A well-established practice in Claremont, Cape Town, has vacancies for full-time psychologists to join a supportive, high-standard environment with strong earning potential and flexibility. Candidates must have experience in working with children, adolescents and adults as well as couples and families.

Vacancies available are HPCSA-registered:

Clinical Psychologist
Counselling Psychologist
Educational psychologist

Apply online or send your CV to admin@psychwestern.co.za.

Locum Neurologist: Medicinic Vergelegen, Somerset West

A busy private neurology practice has capacity for a locum neurologist. The practice covers all neurological conditions including epilepsy, movement disorders, headaches, neuromuscular disorders and Botulinum toxin injections.

Requirements:
Specialist registration in Neurology (Medical or FCTC Neuro) and relevant clinical experience.

Practice details:
Dr Neena Nathoo (locum), Dr Ashwin Sewpersad (locum), Medicinic Vergelegen, 70 Main Road, Somerset West, 7130.

Contact:
Neena (+27 61 607 3918), reception@drnathoo@medicinic.co.za (for more information).

Vacancy for Psychiatrist in Durban Hospital

Permanent Position available at Hospital in Durban
Both full-day and half-day positions are available
Candidates need to be qualified in Psychiatry and registered with HPCSA

For more information:
Contact Adrian Strachan
at adrian@grants.co.za
or 031 3317288

Paediatric Specialist Locum(s) in Sandton

Locum opportunity available for a qualified Paediatrician/Paediatric Specialist at a busy private practice situated at Morningside, Sandton.

Key Responsibilities include:
Consultations, ward rounds, emergency call-outs/patient, daily ward rounds and room consultation/rounds, management of inpatient admissions and discharges, assessing, gives/delegates to sessions/ward rounds procedures, flexibility to cover up to 5 (see per month) weekends per month, and holidays, depending on operational requirements.

Minimum Requirements include:
Registration as a Paediatric Specialist, active MP/SA, MP/SA Association, and experience in a hospital/locum practice, is a must.

To apply, please send your CV & cover letter to
drsonsandton@healthcare.co.za
with the subject line "Locum Paediatrician vacancy".

Vacancy: General Surgeon – Worcester Western Cape

A well-established surgical practice in Worcester is seeking a General Surgeon to join its team. The practice is a busy and supportive environment with a strong referral base from the surrounding towns in Worcester, with regular outreach clinics in Swellendam, Ceres and Robertson and access to theatre time at Worcester Medi-Clinic and Worcester Hospital.

The ideal candidate, collaborative, sharing on call duties and complimentary to the practice of a Sessional general surgical service. The practice functions as an incorporated company with a shareholding structure, offering a clear pathway for a suitable candidate to become a shareholder in a supportive working environment.

This position offers a well-balanced practice with a manageable workload and the opportunity to be part of a rewarding professional environment serving a diverse patient population across the Cape Winelands and surrounding rural communities.

The position will be available from the end of April 2026
For more information or to apply please contact:

Dr Arnold Smith or Dr Jacques Botha: 023 342 7393

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