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Private Practice Review 2 May 2026

HealthMan
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30 YRS Anniversary
PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW

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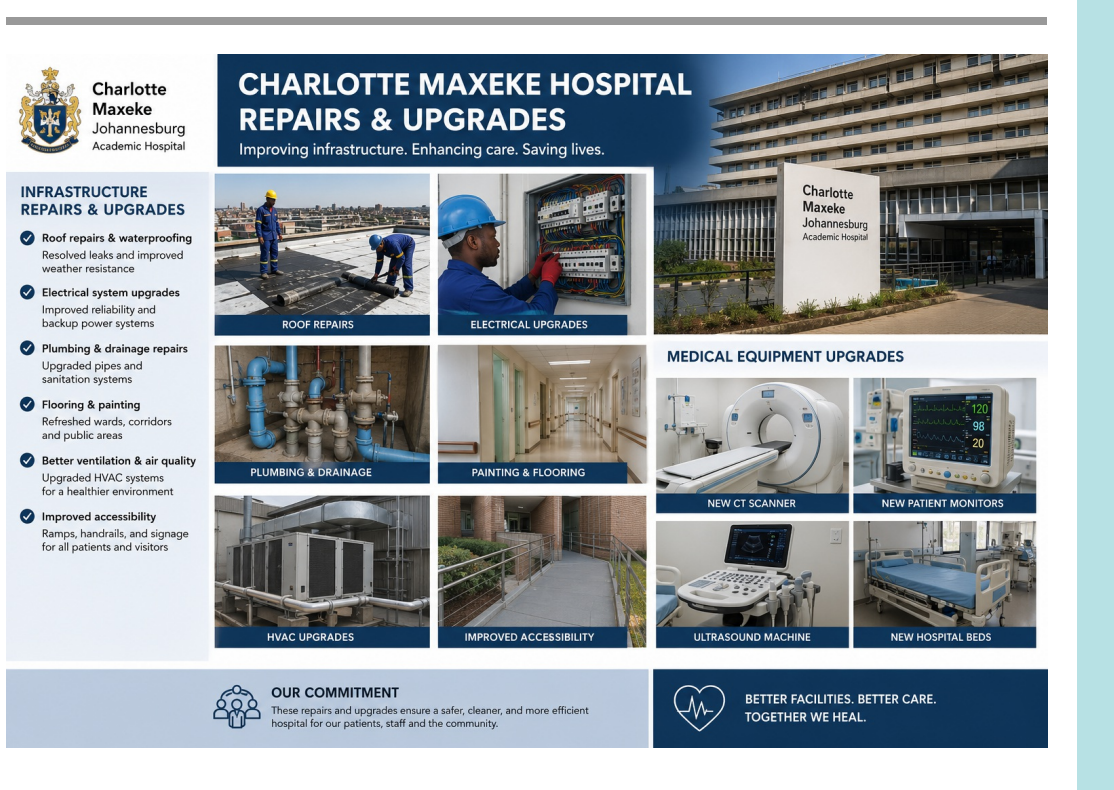

Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
CHARLOTTE MAXEKE HOSPITAL REPAIRS & UPGRADES
Improving infrastructure. Enhancing care. Saving lives.
INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS & UPGRADES
Roof repairs & waterproofing
Resolved leaks and improved weather resistance
Electrical system upgrades
Improved reliability and backup power systems
Plumbing & drainage repairs
Upgraded pipes and sanitation systems
Flooring & painting
Refreshed wards, corridors and public areas
Better ventilation & air quality
Upgraded HVAC systems for a healthier environment
Improved accessibility
Ramps, handrails, and signage for all patients and visitors
ROOF REPAIRS
ELECTRICAL UPGRADES
PLUMBING & DRAINAGE
PAINTING & FLOORING
HVAC UPGRADES
IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADES
NEW CT SCANNER
NEW PATIENT MONITORS
ULTRASOUND MACHINE
NEW HOSPITAL BEDS
OUR COMMITMENT
These repairs and upgrades ensure a safer, cleaner, and more efficient hospital for our patients, staff and the community.
BETTER FACILITIES. BETTER CARE. TOGETHER WE HEAL.

More than five years since a major fire at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, the repair project is expected to be completed in August.

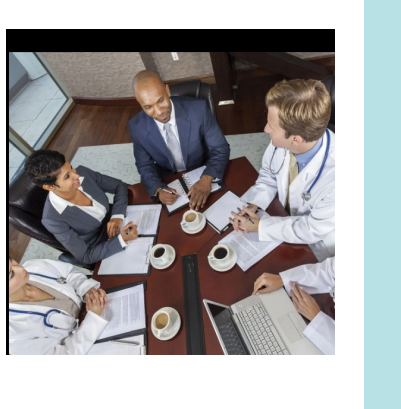
Also Read:

News from Government:

Only R334m of allocated R666m spent on repairs

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Healthcare crisis is a financial and clinical problem



SA's healthcare investment sector is entering a pivotal period as rising demand for care, strained public health resources and rapid medical innovation reshape the industry.

- Neesa Moodley, ***Business Maverick*** (24 May 2026)

With around 84% of South Africans reliant on the public healthcare system, experts argue that the country's healthcare crisis is as much a financing problem as a clinical one.
Investors are urged to move beyond traditional hospital-focused models and support more sustainable, prevention-driven healthcare solutions.
According to industry leaders, investors who position themselves early in the implementation phase of NHI could benefit from significant long-term opportunities.
In the mean time, Government needs to create an environment that encourages healthcare investment, supports job creation and retains skilled professionals.
Key future growth areas include pharmacy-led primary care, AI-enabled diagnostics, chronic disease management, preventive healthcare, affordable insurance models and public-private partnerships.

However, success will depend on balancing commercial returns with broader social benefits, while finding innovative ways to fund expensive new therapies and medicines.

Growing healthcare crisis for SA's 'Missing Middle'

THE GROWING HEALTHCARE CRISIS FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

Rising medical scheme costs are pushing SA's middle-income earners out of private healthcare, deepening pressure on the public system and widening the healthcare divide.
Experts warn the growing "missing middle"
- people earning too much for public assistance
but too little for private cover - poses a systemic risk.

Reduced benefits and higher co-payments may worsen long-term costs through delayed treatment and unmanaged illness.
Proposed solutions include income-sensitive contributions, stronger risk pooling, cross-subsidisation, network-based care and preventive healthcare.
Digital health tools and coordinated reforms are also seen as essential to improving affordability, access and long-term healthcare sustainability in SA. – ***TimesLive***
(19 May 2026)

Weight-loss drugs could reshape consumer economy

WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS COULD RESHAPE CONSUMER ECONOMY

From a niche treatment for type-2 diabetes to a global healthcare phenomenon, glucagon-like peptide-1 drugs, commonly known as GLP-1s, are increasingly influencing industries far beyond medicine.

"In SA, the growing use of medications such as *Ozempic* and semaglutide-based treatments is beginning to raise questions about how shifting health behaviours could affect food retailers, alcohol brands and broader consumer spending patterns."
Cheaper generic semaglutide products and oral formulations improve accessibility.
International studies show GLP-1 users often spend less on food, especially sugary snacks and fast food, while shifting toward healthier, premium products. Alcohol consumption may also decline, with consumers favouring moderation and premium beverages.
Researchers are also exploring potential anti-inflammatory and longevity benefits including reduced risks linked to ageing and dementia, which could expand their influence far beyond healthcare. - ***Business Day*** 18 May 2026)

UPDATE ON NHI NEWS

Victory in the ConCourt

CoN 'unconstitutional'

The Constitutional Court (ConCourt) has dealt a major blow to the Health Minister's plans to regulate where doctors, healthcare professionals, medical equipment and health facilities may be located,

On 18 May the ConCourt confirmed a Pretoria High Court ruling in July 2024 that Sections 36 to 40 of the NHI Actt are unconstitutional and invalid.
In terms of the "Certificate of Need" (CoN) the Minister of Health would have the power to determine where healthcare professionals could practise and where health facilities and equipment could be situated.
Acting Justice Kate Savage, writing for the apex court, found that the provisions were inconsistent with the Constitution because they unjustifiably limited the right to choose a trade, occupation or profession freely. The Court ordered the Minister and the Director-General of Health to pay the applicants' legal costs. - ***Business Day*** (18 May 2026)

- The case was brought by trade union Solidarity and six other applicants including several organisations representing doctors (SA Private Practice Forum) independent private practitioners and private hospitals.

Private healthcare providers react:

SAPPF:
Dr Simon Strachan, CEO of the SA Private Practitioners Forum (SAPPF) welcomed the judgment saying that many of the constitutional arguments about doctors' rights are similar to those raised in challenges to the NHI Act.
Solidarity:
Deputy CEO Anton van der Bijl described the judgment as the collapse of "one of NHI's central pillars".
DA:
Health spokesperson Michele Clark said the ruling established an important constitutional precedent against excessive centralisation in healthcare administration.
ActionSA:
MP Kgosi Letlape described the decision as "a significant victory against state overreach".
Hospital Association of SA:
HASA, representing private hospitals, welcomed the legal clarity brought to a long-standing issue.
The Universal Healthcare Access Coalition (UHAC) welcomed the judgment, saying it reinforced the need for lawful, evidence-based and practical healthcare reform rather than excessive centralisation. The coalition proposed a national workforce-planning framework, stronger accountability and protected funding for health worker training and key healthcare posts.

Government react:

Health Department 'will continue preparations'

In reaction to the judgement a spokesperson of the Health Department said the ConCourt had not declared any part of the NHI Act unconstitutional and noted that the CoN provisions had never been implemented. There is no direct impact of the judgment on the NHI, he said. He accused some political and private healthcare stakeholders of misleading the public about the ruling's significance. The Department added that it would continue preparations for universal healthcare coverage through the NHI framework.

Judgement reserved on NHI Act case

After two days (5 - 6 May) the Constitutional Court reserved judgment on the National Health Insurance (NHI) Act matter in which the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) and the premier of the Western Cape Government (WCG) seek to have the Act set aside on constitutional grounds.

Minister had to apologise after lashing out at judges

Following the ConCourt 's ruling against the Certificate of Need, Minister Motsoaledi accused judges of not being objective. because they are "beneficiaries" of the current private healthcare system - specifically citing a medical scheme for judges called Parmed - which the NHI Act aims to restructure.
- ***IOL*** (19 May 2026)

The advocacy group **Judges Matter** criticised Motsoaledi's comments, calling them an "attack on judges' character" and urging the Minister to retract his remarks and apologise; citing potential unconstitutional interference with the judiciary.
Opposition parties, including the Democratic Alliance (DA), have referred Motsoaledi's comments to President Cyril Ramaphosa, arguing that questioning judicial impartiality undermines the rule of law and is a "smokescreen" to hide deficiencies in the NHI proposal.
This resulted in the Minister apologising for his comments. However, he maintained he did not intend to personally attack the judges but expressed concern about the structural bias of those who benefit from private healthcare.

NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT

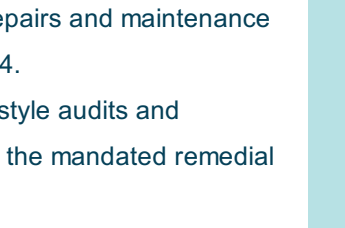
Health Department considering alternatives to CoN

WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS COULD RESHAPE CONSUMER ECONOMY

The National Department of Health is considering alternative ways to regulate where medical professionals practice; following the Constitutional Court 's (ConCourt) rejection of the Certificate of Need (CoN) provisions.

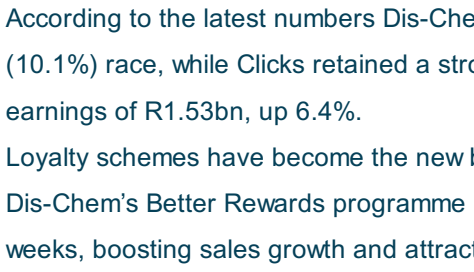
The Department stressed that the ruling does not affect the NHI Act itself, although it acknowledged the need for alternative approaches to healthcare planning, including structured licensing of facilities.
Alternatives include the structured licensing models used in countries such as Canada and Denmark where health facilities are licensed according to planning needs while doctors and other practitioners apply to work at approved establishments.
– ***Daily Maverick*** (20 May 2026)

Only R334m of allocated R666m spent on repairs



More than five years since a major fire at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, the repair project is expected to be completed in August, said Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi during a visit to the hospital. - ***TimesLive*** (27 May 2026).
A report, released by Public Protector Kholeka Gcaleka, revealed the "disgraceful failure" by Gauteng Health and the Department of Infrastructure (DID) to do critical repairs to the hospital since the fire in 2021.
The report also found that poor planning, contractor disputes and other failures caused setbacks. Gcaleka revealed that R666m had been allocated for repairs and maintenance at the hospital, but only R334m was spent between 2021 and 2024.
Gcaleka urged Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi to implement lifestyle audits and exercise "clear and decisive oversight over the implementation of the mandated remedial action", reported ***EWN***
Meanwhile, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana raised concerns about procurement practices in the health sector, saying weaknesses in procurement processes continued to create opportunities for corruption and poor project management. Government was working on electronic procurement systems to improve transparency and reduce corruption, he said.

FINANCIAL NEWS



Pharmacy giants intensify battle

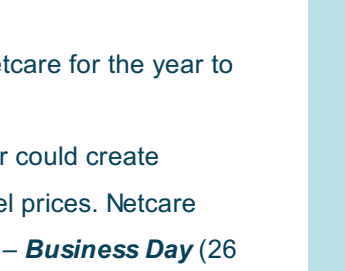
SA's retail pharmacy sector has entered a new phase of competition, with Clicks and Dis-Chem battling for consumer loyalty in a market where growth increasingly depends on taking share from rivals. – ***Financial Mail*** (28 May 2026)
According to the latest numbers Dis-Chem appears to be winning the revenue growth (10.1%) race, while Clicks retained a stronger trading margin of 9.1% and headline earnings of R1.53bn, up 6.4%.
Loyalty schemes have become the new battleground:
Dis-Chem's Better Rewards programme returned R410m in customer savings within 17 weeks, boosting sales growth and attracting 550,000 returning shoppers. Clicks' ClubCard remains dominant, with 12.9m active members contributing most sales, despite supply-chain disruptions that cost the retailer R175m in sales.

Biovac retains contract to supply Hexaxim

Biovac has retained a R5.3bn contract to supply the state with *Hexaxim*, the six-in-one shot for infants in the national childhood immunisation programme.
– ***Business Day*** *(14 May 2026)*

The tender is set to begin on 1 January 2027.
The contract is vital to Biovac's financial stability as it relies heavily on state business for its ongoing operations. In 2023 Biovac had to retrench staff after the Department of Health rejected its pneumonia vaccine in favour of cheaper imported alternatives from India instead.
The local subsidiary of Indian generic drug manufacturer Cipla won contracts worth a combined R1.1bn to supply vaccines against pneumonia, rotavirus and hepatitis B.

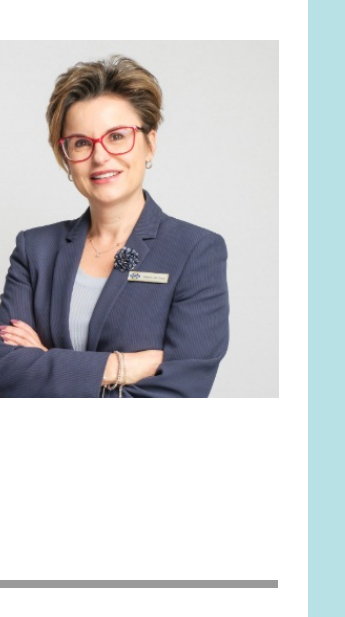
Blow for Netcare



GEMS, SA's largest medical scheme for public servants, is expected to reduce patient volumes at private hospitals, particularly among members of the scheme's popular Tanzanite One option.

This has lowered growth expectations of private hospital group Netcare for the year to September 30, 2026.
Netcare CEO, Richard Friedland, also warned that the US-Iran war could create additional pressure for the business due to the effect of higher fuel prices. Netcare expects to spend an extra R10m on fuel over the next six months. – ***Business Day*** (26 May 2026)

Netcare appoints new CEO



Netcare has named Melanie Da Costa as its next CEO, replacing co-founder Dr Richard Friedland. – ***Moneyweb*** (20 May 2026)
Da Costa, currently Netcare's executive director of strategy and health policy, will become CEO-designate on 1 June and will work alongside Friedland for six months before formally assuming the CEO role on 1 January 2027.
"Da Costa will take over amid private hospital groups navigating the implementation of NHI Act."

PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS

Regulators recall weight-loss product

SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) and the SA Pharmacy Council (SAPC) issued a joint statement instructing pharmaceutical company iDexis to recall its compounded *semaglutide* and *tirzepatide* peptide injections.

According to the statement "serious deficiencies" regarding quality, safety and regulatory compliance processes were discovered in Dexis' compounded GLP-1 weight-loss injections. iDexis was also accused of producing and supplying compounded medicines outside the legal framework permitted in SA and illegally importing ingredients.
iDexis managing director Ruaan Louw rejected the allegations, saying that iDexis had dispensed compounded *semaglutide* and *tirzepatide* peptides to 214,406 patients on prescription without any reported adverse reactions or conditions. – ***Business Day*** *(26 May 2026)*
The raid highlights growing concerns over SA's underground market for GLP-1 and GIP injections, fuelled by soaring demand for weight-loss treatments. Editorial ***TimesLive*** (26 May 2026)
Regulators warned that fake and unregistered products threaten public safety and pledged tougher enforcement against pharmacies and suppliers operating outside legal frameworks.

- ***Medical Brief*** reported that **iDexis** has denied it is non-compliant and is challenging the findings against it in court.

US Aids cuts stalled progress toward HIV targets

SA's HIV treatment programme added only 40,000 patients between 2024 and 2025, according to new Thembisa estimates, raising concerns over the impact of US aid cuts and stalled progress toward HIV targets.

A study published in the journal *AIDS* last year warned that severe reductions in US HIV funding could trigger a 28% drop in ART coverage; a 56% increase in new HIV infections and a 38% rise in AIDS-related deaths between 2025 and 2028.
Thembisa estimated that 53,000 people died from HIV-related causes between mid-2024 and mid-2025. By comparison, 54,000 people living with HIV died from non-HIV-related causes during the same period. – ***Spotlight*** (19 May 2026)

GENERAL NEWS

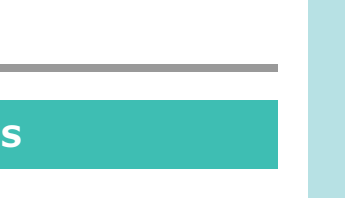
Climate change may be fuelling antibiotic resistance

A new global study has found that climate change is contributing to the rise of antibiotic resistance in Salmonella, one of the world's leading causes of diarrhoeal disease.

Researchers from institutions, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Cambridge ,analysed more than 480,000 Salmonella genomes from 139 countries and found that climate change accounted for about 10% of the global increase in antimicrobial-resistance genes (ARGs).
The study, published in *The Lancet Planetary Health*, linked higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns to faster bacterial growth and greater spread of resistance genes through water systems.
Global ARG levels in Salmonella increased by 38% during the study period, with 82% of countries showing rising resistance. – ***Bloomberg*** (27 May 2026)

NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES

Exit of young members hurts medical schemes financially


EXIT OF YOUNG MEMBERS HURTS MEDICAL SCHEMES FINANCIALLY

Medical schemes are facing a worrying trend of younger contributors declining membership.

– ***Business Day*** *(20 May 2026)*

Between 2015 and 2024, medical scheme membership among people aged 25 to 34 declined by 18%. People over the age of 65 make up about 10% of beneficiaries, but account for roughly 30% of total healthcare expenditure, while members aged 45 to 64 represent around 24% of the membership yet generate about 34% of the costs.
Although contributions increased by more than 10% in both 2024 and 2025, inflation remained around 3%.
With unemployment above 30% and youth unemployment estimated at around 40% to 45%, SA is not producing enough young, employed and healthy contributors to sustain the medical aid model.

GEMS solvency ratio expected to fall to 23%

Business Day reported on 20 May that the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) expects its solvency ratio to fall to 23%, below the statutory requirement of 25%, by the end of 2026.
This follows the scheme's agreement to reduce the contribution increase for members to 7.5% effective 1 June. Initially the increase was set on 9.8% but after pressure from unions it was decreased to 9.5%.
GEMS, the largest medical scheme in SA, has about 2.4m. beneficiaries.
"In his budget speech to Parliament, Public Service and Administration Minister Mzamo Buthelezi said the reduced increase in GEMS contributions would provide relief to public servants while supporting the scheme's long-term sustainability."

HEALTHMAN DIARY

4 - 5 June:
Psycsicians Conference
Stellenbosch

6 - 7 June:
SAPPF Conference
Melrose Arch
Essential Ingredients for Private Practice

10 June:
RFS Webinar

19 - 20 June:
InStopp Paediatric Workshop

24 June:
HM/GEMS meeting

5 - 8 July:
BHF Conference

6 July:
Med Chronical: CPD accredited webinar on Skin Barrier first: The foundation of atopic dermatitis

22 July:
RFS Webinar

20 August:
SASOP/PsychMG:
Roadshow North West

29 - 30 August
Surgicom Congress: Peril, Power and Possibility – Looking Forward to 2030, Your Five-Year Plan

17 September:
SASOP/PsychMg
Roadshow Durban

2-4 October:
ENT Conference – Lord Charles Hotel
Somerset Wes

21 October:
SASOP/PsychMg
Roadshow Gqeberha

22 October
SASOP/PsychMg
Roadshow East London

23-25 October:
PMG Congress - Irene Country Hotel

9 - 11 November:
Annual AGMHI Congress
Mombasa Kenya
Youth Mental Health in
Africa & Diaspora

CMS CIRCULARS

CMS Circulars
published in May 2026

Circular 14 of 2026:
PMB Definitions

Circular 15 of 2026:
IRBA AQI report release

Circular 16 of 2026:
Revised Accreditation Standards
or Administrator and
MCO Evergreen Contracts

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 assistance, even if you are not yet in the process of selling.
For more information contact:
Steve Roos at **steve@healthman.co.za** or
Casper Venter at **casperv@healthman.co.za**.

Vacancy for Psychologists

A well-established psychology practice in Claremont, Cape Town has vacancies for psychologists to join the team:

- The practice offers a strong referral base and a collaborative working environment;
- Opportunity to build and manage your own private practice (at 30%), within an established setting; and
- Strong referral base, flexible hours, full administrative support, premium consulting rooms, and earning potential of R80,000 – R120,000+ per month (based on billed hours).

Requirements:
HPCSA registration (or eligibility) and experience working with children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families.
Contact:
Apply online or send your CV to **admin@humandifference.co.za** for more information.

Consulting Rooms Available: Alberton

Upmarket consulting room available for a healthcare professional. Would suit GP, aesthetic doctors, physiotherapists, speech therapists, OT, psychologists, psychiatrists, dermatologist, etc.

- Sessional (furnished) or full-time (unfurnished) options from January 2026.
- Secure and adequate parking.
- Includes WIFI and cleaning.
- Access to shared reception area and kitchenette.

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- hello@nutritionalsolutions.co.za

Locum Neurologist: Mediclinic Vergelegen, Somerset West

A busy private neurology practice has capacity for a locum neurologist. The practice manages a wide spectrum of neurological conditions and offers an established referral base, supportive working environment and flexible working arrangements.
Requirements:
Specialist registration in Neurology (HPCSA and FC Neurol) and relevant clinical experience.
Practice details:
Dr Heena Narotam Jeena, Suite 215, Second floor, Block 1, Mediclinic Vergelegen, 70 Main Road, Somerset West, 7130.
Contact:
Heena (+27 83 637 9659; reception@drnarotamjeena.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 as a specialist psychiatrist and registered with HPCSA
For more info:
Contact Adrian Veeran
at: adrian@cands.co.za
or: 031 7017388

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