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Dear SASCRO member

The NHI held a consultative meeting on certification and the purchasing of services from private providers, on the 30 May at Centurion. Dr Wilhelm van Zijl kindly attended the meeting on behalf of the SASCRO Committee. The meeting was well attended.

Wilhelm has provided excellent feedback which is relevant to SASCRO.

Aspects of his report are summarised below:

1. Sequence of implementation: This will be from the Primary Health Care (PHC) district setting level upward. The working paper only gets to specialist services in 2023/2025.
2. Certification: According to the working paper, services would only be bought from providers that were certified. There is a large shortage of inspectors and the directorate that employs inspectors has not been allocated a budget to fill or grow their compliment of staff.
3. Buyers: Central hospitals and district health authorities will be able to buy services directly, i.e. not only via a cumbersome centralised process. Oncology will be fit in with tertiary services and will not be relevant to the PHC setting,
4. Principles of procurement: The intentions are to meet high standards in quality and measurable performance. The specific details of meeting these criteria are less well described.
5. Impact of NHI on current medical aid membership: It is foreseen that government Medical Aids (Parmed and GEMS) will be the first to migrate. Other schemes will be moved into the system later.
6. Remuneration models: The intention is that the capitation model will be the way services in the PHC arena will be bought. For specialist and hospital services, the consensus is that it will be based on diagnosis related groups (DRG's) or variations on the theme.

It might be considered that specialist and private hospitals are "safe" in that NHI will either be major success by the time these services join in or there would be a need to reconsider the approach.

There will be meetings with smaller groups in future and written submission are welcome.

SASCRO strongly welcomes the extension of quality cancer care to the whole population and will be constructive and proactive in meeting that aim. At the same time SASCRO will represent the professional and other interests of its members.

Kind Regards,
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