
GUEST EDITORIAL

Managed Healthcare for the Durban scene

With the introduction of managed health care, many practitioners are concerned that the quality of care and the rights of patients to have access to doctors of their own choice might be threatened. Various organisations have attempted to reassure the practitioner and patient that neither quality of care nor the choice of doctor will be affected by the introduction of managed health care systems.

Nevertheless, when change takes place there are always some organisations which attempt to climb on the band wagon and exploit the situation both to the detriment of the practitioner and the patient.

Concerned practitioners representing family practitioners and specialists in Durban are in the process of forming a representative group known as the "Progressive Healthcare Group – Greater Durban Area". The recently elected committee comprises family practitioners as well as specialists and it is hoped that this group will be representative of all the various groups and IPAs of the Greater Durban area.

At a recent committee meeting functions of the Progressive Healthcare Group were defined as follows:

1. To provide information to practitioners and therefore indirectly to patients as to trends in the managed healthcare system.
2. To provide guidelines to groups

with regard to negotiating principles.

3. To maintain a close relationship with all bodies involved in managed healthcare and make use of whatever facilities the respective organisations can offer.
4. To provide information to groups relating to particular providers in respect of the modus operandi adopted by that provider.
5. To provide guidelines with respect to internal audit and cost-effective medical practice.

A number of sub-committees were formed to deal with these issues. It is hoped to convene a meeting of all the representatives of the various groups to establish with these persons the function of the Progressive Healthcare Group so that each group can benefit from the expertise provided.

It must be stressed that the main function of the Progressive Healthcare Group is to ensure that the quality of medical practice is maintained for the benefit of the patient and that it is not compromised by the particular Managed Healthcare System which might be operating in that particular group.

It is also acting as a common forum for practitioners so that trends in the Managed Healthcare scene can be monitored.

It is envisaged that such a group

could serve as a uniting factor of medical professionals to ensure provision of quality healthcare to all persons in the greater Durban area.

GK Brink
Chairman

Polytrim*
Ophthalmic Solution

**IN
EYE
INFECTIONS**

S4 Polytrim* REG. NO. Q/15.1/107
Ophthalmic Solution
EACH 1ml CONTAINS: TRIMETHOPRIM 1mg
POLYMYXIN B SULPHATE 10,000 Units
*Trademark PR 86-02/D2