

## COMMUNIQUE FOURTH QUARTER 2020

The 2020 year is coming to an end. However, the challenges the year posed on us are going to continue. For many, many South Africans 2020 was a strange year in every sense of the word. The unexpected arrival of Covid-19 added another layer of challenges to the ones already faced. The plans made for 2020 had to make way for managing these challenges and with second and third wave infections developing across the globe it is clear that the South African crisis relating to Covid-19 is far from over.

During 2020 HQA continued to measure and report on clinical quality on a data set representing more than 80% of all the medical scheme insured lives in South Africa. The 2020 HQA Industry Results were released during an online Clinical Quality Conference that included a presentation on setting up registries and outcomes measurement from the Chairman of DICA (Dutch Institute for Clinical Auditing) in the Netherlands. HQA also positioned itself to fulfil the role of the initial OMRO as per the HMI recommendations published in November 2019. As from August 2020 HQA, a not-for-profit entity and public benefit organization, offers membership and participation to funders, practitioners and facilities and each of these groupings can be represented on the HQA Board and on the relevant technical working groups. As it is important for a sustainable healthcare sector to strive for a uniform methodology and standard of measuring and reporting on clinical quality, HQA welcomes collaboration with other Healthcare Industry Bodies and Professional Associations, as well as with CMS, OHSC and the Competition Commission. In the past few weeks HQA engaged with several hospital and practitioner groups and the National Chairperson of SAMA accepted an appointment on the HQA Board. Similar positive developments can be expected in the year to come.

At the end of another year in HQA's history, marking its 16<sup>th</sup> year of measuring and reporting on clinical quality, it is time to say thank you to all of HQA's member organisations, comprising of 18 medical schemes and 16 other healthcare organisations. Thank you to Dr Jacqui Miot and all those participating in the CAB, to Adam Lowe and Dr Johann van Zyl of NMG for collecting and storing the data, for analysing and preparing the reports, for the technical input they provide and for all the various presentations of the annual HQA Results. Thank you to the HQA Board for proactively responding to the HMI recommendations and for creating room for practitioners and facilities to co-steer, co-govern, co-design HQA towards becoming the initial OMRO. Thank you to important stakeholders such as CMS, OHSC and Competition Commission for collaborating on the important matter of developing a uniform methodology and standard of measuring and reporting on clinical quality, relevant for the whole South African Healthcare Sector.

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Directors: Dr FPJ Griesel (Chairman), BA Dickson (Vice-Chairman), M van der Merwe, Dr RM Naidoo, Dr U Mahlati, Dr JHB Steenekamp, M Marais, Dr N Naidoo, Dr A Coetzee, S Collie\* (\*Alternate Director)

*“Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” Francis of Assisi*

I wish everyone a safe, healthy and pleasant festive season and look forward to be working with you in 2021.

Prepared by: Louis Botha

CEO

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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