

Communique First Quarter 2026

HQA is preparing for its 22nd year of reporting on healthcare quality, on a set of nearly 200 indicators, based on data that represents more than 80% of lives in the medical scheme industry in South Africa.

The unsung heroes behind this progress are the funders that voluntarily participate in HQA's annual Report, HQA's affiliate member organisations, members of the Clinical Advisory Board, the Hospital Clinical Advisory Board, the Practitioner Clinical Advisory Board, the Technical Advisory Committee, HQA's actuarial and clinical consultants, the HQA Team, the HQA Board of Directors, and important stakeholders such as CMS and OHSC.

Since its inception in 2000 as a Not for Profit and Public Benefit Company, HQA has realised the importance of offering a safe and secure space in which interdisciplinary professionals can collaborate on matters pertaining to measurement and reporting healthcare quality, together with data security and confidential reporting.

Collaboration in healthcare is not just a best practice, but a vital component of high-quality patient care. It improves outcomes, enhances efficiency, supports professional satisfaction, and strengthens healthcare systems. By fostering a culture of collaboration, healthcare organisations can ensure safer, more effective, and patient centred care.

There is a strong argument for standardisation of healthcare quality measurement and reporting, so that all healthcare providers and/or funders would present the same data in the same way. It is for this reason that collaboration between facilities, practitioners, funders, and other healthcare providers is such a critical component of a successful and sustainable healthcare system.

According to the World Health Organisation quality healthcare refers to healthcare delivery that is effective, safe, and people centred. Continuous improvement of quality healthcare can only be achieved when measurement and reporting of quality healthcare is standardised, and results are therefore interpreted in the same way.

Reg No 2000/025855/08

Directors: BA Dickson (Chairman), Dr JHB Steenekamp (Vice-Chairman), MN Chetty*, Dr G Goolab, Dr V Gqola, Dr U Mahlati, Dr PJ Matley, S Perumal, Dr U Pillay, I Rasool, Dr K Smith, Dr P Soko, Dr G Timothy* (*Alternate Director)

During the past three months the Clinical Advisory Board have been working on a review of the indicators for the 2026 Report, also considering new indicators and indicators to retire. The Technical Advisory Committee deals with technical aspects and is currently reviewing the scoring model with a view to developing a weighting methodology. HQA's collaboration with the Prostate Cancer Foundation is nearing the final stage of preparation before data will begin to flow from private and public practitioners for purposes of outcomes reporting. HQA hosted a meeting with some of its members from the hospital sector with the aim to create a Hospital Clinical Advisory Board. A proposal to launch a healthcare quality report for Practitioners will soon be delivered.

The results of the 2026 HQA Report will be released at the annual HQA Industry Results Presentation and Clinical Quality Conference on 14th August 2026, an event not to be missed. At the core of the program will be a panel discussion on coronary revascularisation. Panellists will be looking at variability in practice, including high numbers of stents per episode, and cases where bypass surgery is required shortly after stents.

With April around the corner, we would like to take a moment to thank you for being part of our journey. Whether you're going to celebrate Easter, enjoy time with loved ones, or simply embrace the beauty of the changing season, we wish you joy, peace, and moments that inspire.

"Getting together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success!"
Henry Ford

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