

COMMUNIQUE LAST QUARTER 2022

The 2022 year is coming to an end and will be remembered as the year in which the Covid pandemic eased up on us in South Africa and elsewhere in the world. It will also be remembered as the year in which a war broke out in Ukraine and the negative impact it has on economies worldwide. Consistent rising temperatures, floods and droughts brought a realisation that climate change is not something of the future, it is happening as we speak and the world leaders are not prepared to deal with it effectively. The population of the world is consistently growing (reached 8 billion in November 2022) and faster than many economies, placing an unrealistic and unsustainable demand on natural resources. Closer to home we experience an energy crisis and an economy that is under immense pressure.

Leaders in the world have come to realise the biggest challenge of the future is not only to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, but to increase the health status and to create sustainable living conditions for an ageing and growing population. Countries all over the world are challenged to invest in their human capital by ensuring access to quality health care and education at all ages and by promoting opportunities for productive employment and decent work.

In the last three years HQA transformed itself at all levels. As a Not for Profit and Public Benefit Organisation HQA's Board of Directors now reflects representation from the funding industry, practitioners, facilities and independents. Eligibility for membership and participation is now open to all healthcare organisations.

At a functional level various working groups and sub-committees were created:

-The CAB (Clinical Advisory Board) is a diverse group of member and stakeholder representatives responsible for developing and reviewing HQA's health quality indicators.

-A Hospital sub-group was established. A process for standardising definitions was started, for example: what is meant by an admission, a re-admission, etc.

-A Practitioner working group was formed for purposes of developing a practitioner report from HQA's existing data set and indicators.

-A Clinical Registries Working Group was established for developing and setting up a registry on localised prostate cancer.

-A TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) consisting of health actuaries and coding experts from the industry was formed to review the technical aspects around risk adjustment and coding HQA uses in its analyses and scoring of participants' performance on quality.

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Directors: BA Dickson (Chairperson) Dr JHB Steenekamp (Vice Chairperson)
Prof MN Chetty*, S Collie, Dr V Gqola, Dr U Mahlati, M Marais, Dr PJ Matley, Dr N Naidoo, Dr U Pillay, Dr K Smith, Dr P Soko, G Timothy*
(*Alternate Director)

-The TechSC (Technical Sub-Committee) is an internal forum that does the behind-the-scenes technical work, for example testing a new indicator proposal for clinical evidence, international best practise, viability, etc.

Dr Jacqui Miot Chairs the CAB and all the other sub-committees and working groups except for the TAC that is chaired by Adam Lowe from NMG.

HQA's internal capacity has recently been strengthened with the appointments of Laura Bos (Project Management and Product Development) and Dr Martie Conradie (Clinical Consulting).

Much work is going into securing a complete and accurate data set for measuring health quality. In 2023 HQA aims to complete a pilot study on measuring outcomes on localised prostate cancer and a quality report for practitioners. Developing a methodology for public reporting on health quality is another priority.

HQA cannot exist in isolation and is grateful for the support it receives from its stakeholders, its member organisations and participants. Thank you also to HQA's Board of Directors for exercising stewardship and governance, to Dr Jacqui Miot and her team, Obaidiyah Mustapha, Laura Bos and Dr Martie Conradie, to Adam Lowe from NMG and Dr Johann van Zyl (Clinical Governance) and all those contributing to the CAB and other sub-committees and working groups.

I wish you a safe and healthy period of rest and family time over the festive season and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the new year and onto the next chapter of our journey towards continuous measuring, reporting and improving of health quality in the interest of better-quality healthcare and a sustainable healthcare sector for all.

Prepared by: Louis Botha (CEO)
25 November 2022

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Henry Ford

