

COMMUNIQUE FIRST QUARTER 2021

It is almost the end of the first quarter of 2021. A year down the line since the first Covid-19 case was diagnosed in South Africa, and the challenges relating to the pandemic are far from over. Although the roll-out of a vaccination program commenced, progress is slower than ideal and a third wave of Covid-19 is expected.

During the first quarter of 2021 HQA welcomed Workability, Medtronic Africa and Safe Surgery SA as new members and look forward to a fruitful collaboration.

The annual membership and participation renewal process is underway and nearly completed.

The CAB (Clinical Advisory Board) and Tech-SC (Technical Sub-Committee) met on two occasions respectively during the first quarter. The annual review process of the HQA indicators, in preparation for the 2021 analysis and reporting cycle, is on track.

At the February meeting of the HQA Board Dr Vuyo Gqola from GEMS was welcomed as a new member of the Board.

Following on the finalization of a MOU between HQA and CMS, a nominated representative from CMS attended the February Board Meeting in an observer capacity and will continue to do so going forward. CMS also attend the CAB meetings. A similar collaboration with OHSC is work in progress. HQA is also working in close collaboration with the Competition Commission in order to proactively avoid any potential anti-competitive behavior that may result from participation in the annual HQA clinical quality measurement and benchmarking reports.

As a first step towards outcomes measurement and reporting to practitioners and facilities, HQA is working with a practitioner sub-group of the CAB on developing a

report for practitioners from HQA's existing data and metrics. The next step would be to develop clinical registries and outcomes measures for specific specialist groups and associations, and HQA is reaching out to any such groups ready and willing to embark on such a pioneering development. Similar discussions with facilities are underway.

If there is one thing the pandemic highlighted the past twelve months it is the importance of a nation having access to a robust healthcare delivery system, able to deliver quality healthcare, swiftly, consistently, affordably. A corner stone of such an ideal healthcare system is a universally applied clinical quality metrics. Good outcomes depend on a healthcare system built on a foundation of quality: training, infrastructure, processes, administration, funding, product design, regulation, management, measurement and reporting, and continuous improvement. A healthy collaboration amongst all stakeholders is key to the success of achieving such a goal.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

Wishing all a safe and a healthy break during the coming religious holidays.

Louis Botha

CEO

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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, Dr V Gqola, S Collie* (*Alternate Director)