



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PHOLELA CHC

PHOLELA COMPLEX

NEWS

December 2023 - March 2024

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER



Featured Articles

- Foreword from the CEO
Isibaya Samadoda
- Harry Gwala MatCH Awards
- Long Service Awards
- Quality Day 2023
- Dental Clinic
- New appointments 2024

01



Dr L Buthelezi

CEO / Medical Manager

As we begin a new year, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the tireless work and dedication towards our patients. As we move forward with renewed plans and hopes - let's make this year the best yet and work together to provide the highest quality of care.

Our core objectives as the Pholela CHC sub-district remain the same:

- Providing universal, equitable, and community-specific healthcare coverage.
- Enhancing the client experience of care, which we strive to improve (from the overall 88%); through monthly reviews meetings to generate quality improvement plans and take action.
- Reducing morbidity and mortality in our community, which we monitor closely and address with our quality improvement initiatives.

These objectives are aligned to the outcomes from the Provincial Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal.

Our dental department recently underwent renovations, which now allows us to serve our patients more efficiently. We now have two dental chairs, which means we can reduce waiting times and provide a better overall experience for our patients. Our top priority is the comfort and satisfaction of our patients, and we're pleased to be able to provide an even better service.

At the 1st annual Quality Day at Pholela CHC, our dental department received an award for the most compliments from patients. This event celebrated the hard work and dedication of all our staff members and departments throughout the year. The dental department was recognized for its commitment to providing excellent care and service to our patients.

At Pholela CHC, we recognize that our staff's contributions to improving the quality of care we provide are vital to the success of our workplace. Management's recognition of these contributions helps to boost morale and create a more positive and supportive environment. This, in turn, results in better patient care and ultimately, a more successful workplace. We are committed to continuously improving the quality of care we provide, knowing that there is always room for improvement.

As we celebrate Easter, I extend my warmest wishes to all the staff members of Pholela CHC sub-district, and the community we serve. May your holidays be filled with joy and gratitude and may the spirit of renewal fill you with new hope and inspiration.

May The Almighty God Bless You All During This Time

02



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Commemorating World AIDS Day 2023



On December 1st, World AIDS Day is observed around the globe, raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and showing support for those affected by the disease. To commemorate this day, our staff organized an awareness march alongside young community maidens, encouraging young people to abstain from behaviors that put them at risk for contracting HIV or jeopardising their futures with teenage pregnancies.

Our community was then informed of the 16 Days of Activism, an annual campaign spanning November 25th to December 10th, which aims to address violence and injustice against women and children in all its forms. As a nation, we need to work together to combat Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the stigma that people living with HIV/AIDS face. The importance of getting tested, using condoms for protection, and accessing ARV treatment and the new PREP pill were also discussed at length.

Following this, the staff and community members participated in a candlelight ceremony led by Deputy Nursing Manager Mrs. Nzimande. This ceremony paid tribute to those who have been affected by and lost their lives to HIV/AIDS, and was a powerful reminder of the ongoing impact of the disease on our community. The ceremony also emphasized the

importance of continuing to raise awareness and advocating for change, as well as knowing how to take care of yourself.

Visit your nearest healthcare facility to get tested!



03



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**GROWING
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Long-service Excellence Awards Quality Day 2023



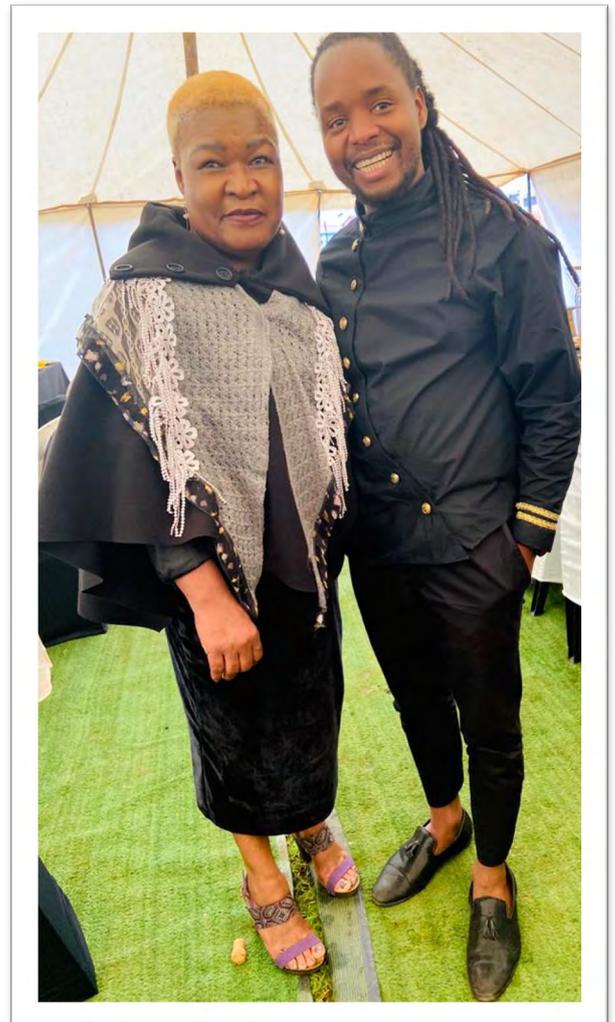
On December 13, 2023, Pholela CHC hosted its first ever Quality Day and Long-service Excellence Awards. The purpose of the event was to share the achievements milestones from the previous year, look to the future, and envision what still needs to be done to ensure optimal quality service-delivery to the community.

The Long-service Excellence Awards were given to staff members who have been with the Department of Health for 10 years and more. Certificates were presented to them as tokens of appreciation for their committed service.

The dental clinic and patient administration department were singled out for receiving the most compliments and being the most improved section, respectively.

The CEO/Medical Manager Dr. L Buthelezi thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to the community we serve, “Keep up the good work.”

Long Service Excellence Awards Quality Day 2023



Isibaya Samadoda 2024

On Wednesday the 20th March 2024, Pholela CHC NDZ Sub-district hosted the Isibaya Samadoda event at eMasamini location in Ward 11. The Isibaya Samadoda campaign is led by “The Prince” Hlanganiso Zulu, who has been a champion for the cause for many years. He visits different communities and educates men and boys about the importance of knowing to behave and handle themselves in order to become respectful and honourable men.

The focus is on mens’ health, including the importance of circumcision and regular health checks. It is often noted that a low percentage of men visit the clinic, resulting in increased mortality rates, particularly amongst the youth. Topics such as teenage pregnancy, as well as community empowerment initiatives were covered at length, as we need to work together to ensure our children have bright futures.



As March is TB Awareness Month, the event further sought to start the conversation about TB and its devastating effects. The Pholela CHC medical and allied health teams then serviced the community by providing access to a variety of services not usually included in the mobile clinics. These included: the Dental and Eye Clinics, Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Social Work.

Community-orientated healthcare goes a long way and the Department of Health plays a vital role in ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare services, tailored to their community.



Isibaya Samadoda Gallery



Dental Department



Mr. I.L. Ndlaku (Oral Hygienist); Mr. M. Hlatshwayo (Chief Dental Therapist); Miss. N. Phopho (Dental Assistant); Miss. M. Nape (Community Service Dentist); Mrs. S. Nhlangulela (Dental Therapist)

Access to quality dental care is essential for maintaining good oral health. At Pholela CHC, we are committed to providing the best possible care for our patients. Our dental department has received over 50 compliments in 2023, reflecting our dedication to providing high-quality care. We are proud to offer a wide range of services, from scaling and polishing (by appointment), to root canal treatment, tooth extraction, restoration, direct composite bridges and more.

The dental department is open Monday to Friday from 07:30am to 16:00pm, with five staff members on hand to assist you with oral care and hygiene. The department also provides outreach services, visiting PHC remote clinics weekly, as well as school visits to the surrounding neighbourhood.



We're here to assist with all your dental needs. Visit us for the quality care you deserve!



Harry Gwala District MatCH Awards

On the 14th of December 2023, our district support partner (MatCH) hosted an awards ceremony at Ilangeni Lodge in Kokstad. MatCH, which stands for Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health Institute is an indigenous South African public-benefit organisation providing a broad range of HIV and TB-focused technical assistance, capacity building, and direct service delivery support to improve access to care, client outcomes and health services management.

Representatives from each of the four sub districts were invited to the event, which aimed to recognize and reward the sub districts for their performance since they began working with MATCH. The performance was measured using data indicators/elements, comparing their performance at the start of the contract with their performance in the current year. It was pleasing to see positive outcomes and growth in these indicators, as all facilities and sub districts showed significant improvement.

Pholela CHC received special recognition in the following categories:

- Outstanding performance in the Covid-19 vaccination outreach programme.
- Excellent performance in the pharmacy department, achieving a medication availability rate of 90%
- Certificate for a high number of index testing, demonstrating a commitment to detecting and treating HIV early.
- The OHSC Certificate of Compliance for demonstrating a high standard of patient care.
- Excellence trophy for having a high total rate of achievement (TROA) of 2905.

We would like to thank the staff at Pholela CHC sub district for their teamwork, resilience and dedication in achieving these accolades, without which these achievements would not have been possible. Your commitment to the mission and vision of the Department of Health and institution is evident in your work, and we look forward to continued success in the future. Thank you, and congratulations on your hard-earned accomplishments!



09



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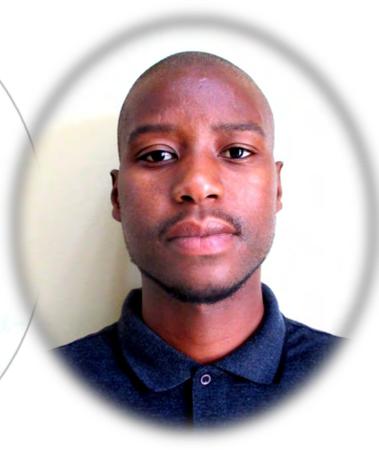
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STAFF APPOINTMENTS



IS Maphanga
Assistant Director
Human Resources



N Mbambo
Intern
Human Resources



ND Gwala
Operational Manager
Underberg Clinic



SS Dlamini
Operational Manager



Y Basi
Secretary



SS Nzimande
Secretary



K Nkhize
Learner Post-Basic



SP Dlamini
Learner Post-Basic



LW Cele
Enrolled Nursing Assistant



N Mzolo
Pharmacy Assistant
Basic



N Zungu
Pharmacy Assistant
Post-Basic



M Nape
Community-Service
Dentist



STAFF APPOINTMENTS



AT Khosa
Intern
Pharmacist



TS Dinga
Intern
Pharmacist



P Chetty
Community Service
Pharmacist



N Mthembu
Community Service
Pharmacist



Dr A Natverlal
Community Service
Medical Officer



Dr SS Sithole
Community Service
Medical Officer



Dr S Bhanial
Community Service
Medical Officer



DL Clark
Community Service
Occupational Therapist



MJ Mathivha
Community Service
Radiographer



JL Tillett
Community Service
Physiotherapist



WORLD GLAUCOMA WEEK 2024

UNITING FOR A GLAUCOMA FREE WORLD

Glaucoma week occurs every year between the 10th - 16th of March to raise awareness of its impact and unite communities worldwide in the fight against it. On the 11th of March 2024, Ophthalmic nurse Sr. N Mchunu and the staff hosted an awareness event in the patient admin waiting area to educate the community and patients about Glaucoma. The discussion looked at closely at the disease as she explained exactly what it is and emphasised that it is treatable.

Glaucoma is a condition that causes damage to the optic nerve and is often associated with increased pressure inside the eye. Many people are unaware of glaucoma and its signs and symptoms, which can lead to permanent blindness if not treated. Blurred vision, watery eyes, and headaches are all common symptoms and if you experience any of these symptoms more often than usual, it's important to see an optometrist and get an eye test.

Glaucoma Week is a reminder of the importance of regular eye exams and early detection and management of the condition to preserve your vision. It's important to remember that even if you have no symptoms of glaucoma, it's still important to have regular eye exams to catch the condition early and prevent any vision loss.

People at higher risk of developing glaucoma include those over the age of 60, people with a family history of glaucoma, those with diabetes, and those who are nearsighted or have had previous eye surgery. It's also important to be aware of the symptoms and to see an optometrist if you suspect you may have glaucoma. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to preserving your vision.



12



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TB AWARENESS DAY 2024



We Beat TB! On March 25th, the staff at Pholela CHC held a march to commemorate World TB Day. They were joined by patients, who marched and sang TB awareness songs. The message of the march was that TB can be cured, and people should be screened for the disease.

Mr. S Mkhize spoke to the community and patients about the signs and symptoms of TB. He emphasized that it is an airborne virus and can be easily transmitted from one person to another. He explained that opening windows and covering mouths when coughing can help prevent the spread of TB. He also discussed the importance of client TB tracing, a screening method that helps identify and treat all individuals who have come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with TB.

Our Occupational Health Nurse Sr. N Nontununu spoke about the importance of maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle to prevent illnesses, and how smoking and alcohol consumption can be especially dangerous for people with TB. The audience was engaged and asked questions about how to further improve the fight against TB, such as door-to-door screenings. This feedback will be considered as the community health workers continue to assist with this illness.

Through a strong, united effort, we can reach our goal of a TB-free community. Let's continue working together to improve the health of our community.



EASTER PRAYER SERVICE IN PICTURES



GALLERY

2023/2024



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Sfiso Mkhize

PHOTOGRAPHER / WRITER



Danah Clark

CO-EDITOR



Maganya Mathivha

CO-EDITOR



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HEALTH
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CONTACT DETAILS

D1213 Hlanganani Road

Tel: +27 (0) 39 832 9488

**P/Bag X502
Bulwer 3244**

Tel fax: +27 (0) 39 832 9662

sifiso.mkhize@kznhealth.gov.za

16



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