



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

HARRY GWALA REGIONAL HOSPITAL

OFFICIAL OPENING

NEWS

APRIL 2025
SPECIAL EDITION



Official opening of the HGRH Renal Ward by HGRH Executive Management

HGRH Renal Unit was launched on the 29th of April 2025. The renal ward is in 1st floor next to surgical ward. The purpose of opening this Renal Unit is to provide specialized care and treatment of patients with kidney failure.



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INTERVIEW WITH DR NONKALA



Dr Nonkala (Renal Specialist) & Dr Gabela (Senior Manager: Medical Services)

How to access the services ? Patients need to follow a proper referral pattern, this is very important because most of the time once you start dialysis chances are you have to be placed in a program if you are in wrong catchment area it makes it difficult for us to do a proper work up for you because you fall outside the catchment area, for an example if you stay in Durban it will be difficult for the patient to come three times a week to dialyze in PMB, this will cause treatment interruptions, this is very important!! For patients who fall within our catchment area what they need to do is to go to a local clinic or local GP they will do bloods and they will send the patient to us and our team of expert doctors will make further assessment and decide whether you need dialysis or further investigations.

What is the criteria for the dialysis program? Dialysis is considered as a scarce resource therefore we need to rationed it when we are prescribing therefore a criteria is needed in order for us to comply accordingly, it is a very expensive treatment therefore we need to take care of it so that we don't collapse the budget that is set aside for this program. The government is trying by all means to make sure people access these services however we need to also keep in mind we are not a first world country yet therefore these services cannot be available to everyone in this current state of economy. In other African countries citizens pay from their pocket in order to have access to dialysis services, I consider ourselves fortunate because we don't have to pay to have access to health services however that does not say we must not follow national guidelines when it comes to dialysis services.

Is the dialysis clinic open already? Yes it is already open, we started receiving our first clients on the day of official opening which was on the 29/04/2025.

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Dr Nonkala
Renal Specialist

The benefits of Renal Ward both for the hospital and community is going to be two fold. Number one the research is telling us that number of patients suffering from kidney disease is rapidly increasing therefore we need strategies to address this challenge and one of the strategy is to have access to dialysis centers but the MOST IMPORTANT strategy is primary and secondary prevention. Number two, HGRH is situated in a populous uMgungundlovu district with an estimated population around 1.4 million.

Currently Greys hospital is the only center that provides dialysis services for patients that are on dialysis program, therefore the new HGRH dialysis clinic will be able to address the challenges we have through the following:

Patients that are in the hospital needing acute dialysis will be no longer discussed with Greys hospital for dialysis they will be discussed with internal medicine at HGRH, the team will assess the patient and decide on type of dialysis. All the adults departments are included in this proposed plan except paediatric department. Just to highlight we have already started this plan because of increase demand of dialysis services in this area.

All the referral hospitals(district hospitals) that falls under our catchment area will refer the new patients that needing acute dialysis direct to us for further management. Patients that are dialyzing at Greys still need to go to Greys until we are fully capacitated.

Once we are fully capacitated we are planning to take most of our patients from Greys hospital in order to relieve the institutions dialysis work load and also it is important for our PATIENTS to dialyze closer to home this improve their well being and encourage them not to interrupt their sessions because the dialysis clinic is far from where they are

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Do you have kidney clinic in the hospital? Yes we run a kidney clinic on Tuesday where we see all patients suffering from different kinds of kidney disease. We see patients by referral from the primary health care doctors and also in hospital referrals. Your doctor must send us a vula consult and will respond with date.

Do you have ward? We do not have a ward all the patients are admitted under internal medicine because these patients belong to medicine and we are not a renal unit we just have a dialysis unit that provide dialysis, the renal unit is at Greys hospital.

Who will be in charge of the dialysis clinic? This is a very important question. The clinic belongs to HGRH department of internal medicine therefore the HCU Dr DPK Wilson and Nephrology HCU Dr D Pillay both will be the custodian of the dialysis clinic, ill be doing the clinical aspect which is to make sure we are administering the right treatment to the patients that will be getting treatment from our clinic.



Dr Wilson (HCU: Internal Medicine)& Dr Mfolozi (Medical Manager)

Acknowledgements: I would like to send my gratitude to the following stake holders: DOH KZN/National, MEC Mrs. N Simelane Zulu and her DDG Dr Moji, CEO Mrs. Nxaba & EXCO, HCU Dr DPK Wilson, Mr. Kotelo from head office, Matron BB Ndlovu, Sr. Lituka and OM's in the department of internal medicine.

This is a great team work and unity indeed. Our people, I mean the people who do not have privilege to access private health will appreciate your effort for making sure that they get access to this kind of service. you must take pride in this clinic and the history will never forget your great work. I know health system has challenges however if we address one problem at a time we shall overcome and our people will take pride in you. It is in our hands as healthcare providers to make sure these essential health services are accessible to our people “ Dr Nonkala

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RENAL WARD



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