



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

HEALTH
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HARRY GWALA REGIONAL HOSPITAL HGRH NEWS! NEWS

APRIL TO JUNE 2025

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Dr SSS Buthelezi—NDOH Director General—HGRH



HGRH service recognition awards



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OFFICE OF THE CEO

As we close out the first quarter of 2025 (April to June),



Mrs. NT Nxaba
Chief Executive Officer

I want to take a moment to express my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to our hospital.

I'm thrilled to report that our hospital has seen significant achievements during this quarter, and it's all thanks to your tireless efforts. From delivering exceptional patient care to driving innovation and excellence in our services, you've demonstrated a commitment to our mission that is truly inspiring “Efficient, dedicated health care services”

Some of the notable achievements from the first quarter include:

- Improved patient satisfaction scores, looking at compliments (89%) versus complaints (1%). The other percentage is for the suggestions, where our clients suggest that the staff ratios to be looked at by management (staff shortages) as well as linen challenges.
- Enhanced quality of care and patient outcomes
- Excellent teamwork and collaboration across departments

Each of you plays a vital role in our hospital's success, and I'm grateful for your contributions. Whether you're working behind the scenes or directly with patients, your work matters, and I'm proud to work alongside such a talented and dedicated team.

As we move into the next quarter, I encourage you to continue striving for excellence, innovating, and supporting one another. Together, we'll continue to deliver exceptional care and make a positive impact on our community. The goals for KwaZulu-Natal DOH for this financial year is for the facilities to improve patient experience of care that will include taking a close look on complaints / patient safety incidents management as well as maternal and mortality indicators.

Once again, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our hospital. I'm honored to lead such a fantastic team, and I look forward to celebrating more successes together.



NATIONAL DOH VISIT

On the 3rd of June 2025, National Department of Health Director General Dr SSS Buthelezi and Dr Zungu led an infrastructure support visit to Harry Gwala Regional Hospital. The purpose was to check on the progress of the National Revitalization Project for refurbishment and upgrade of the hospital.



National Department of Health led by DDG: Dr SSS Buthelezi doing walkabouts around the hospital

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LONG SERVICE AWARDS

On the 8th of May 2025, HGRH hosted a 10 year staff recognition event at Caluza Community Hall. Its main purpose was to celebrate, recognize and show appreciation to employees for their dedication and hard work. The event was graced by the presence Prof CB Thenjwayo (member of the hospital board), hospital management as well the staff members. Mrs. NT Nxaba the hospital CEO delivered a Key note address. She thanked the staff for their role in shaping the future of the hospital and quoted Maya Angelou “nothing can dim the light that shines from within”. Mrs. Nxaba thank the recipients for efforts and contribution to serve the community with courage and hope. She mentioned that their commitment to serve the community is appreciated.



Mrs. NT Nxaba
Guest Speaker for the day



Mr CS Kheswa—programme Director



Entertained audience

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LONG SERVICE AWARDS



The management presented certificate to staff members who have reached the milestone of 10 years.

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HGRH NURSES DAY

Harry Gwala Regional Hospital celebrated its nurses on the 21st of May 2025. The theme for 2025 is “Our nurses. Our future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies” emphasizing the importance of supporting nurses for their well-being and the broader economic benefits. This theme highlights the critical role nurses play in healthcare systems and the need to invest in their health, education and leadership. The day aimed at appreciating nurses hard work and dedication. All the wards were given cake as an appreciation gesture. The day started with drum majorette around the hospital, nurses in white uniforms enjoyed their day.



Mrs. NC Ngubo presented a token to Mrs. B Mhlongo our guest speaker

The celebration on the nurses day and presentation of the

NURSES DAY..IN PICTURES



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STAFF WELLNESS DAY

On the 28th of May 2025 HGRH hosted a wellness day at Njozela Hall. The purpose of this day was to promote employee health and morale which is a great initiative to address critical health challenges such as stress, chronic illnesses, and mental health struggles prevalent in healthcare workplaces. The primary purpose of staff wellness in the workplace is to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of employees, leading to increased productivity, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced employee engagement. Healthy and well-rested employees tend to be more productive and focused, leading to higher output and better quality of work. When employees feel valued and cared for, they are more likely to be engaged and invested in their work, leading to increased job satisfaction and retention. Employees who feel supported and valued by their employers are more likely to have high morale and loyalty.



The hall had different stalls focused on health such as health screening (BP, HIV, Diabetes and TB), Dental Department, Optometrist and Dietician). The event also featured insurance stalls providing information and services.

HGRH ED RESEARCH

The dawdle, dally and delay of diabetic ketoacidosis: Decoding the emergency department length of stay – A chart review

Authors:

Raees Gangat¹

Nicholas J. Dufourq¹

Duncan M.
Havenga¹

Affiliations:

¹Department of
Emergency Medi-
cine, Faculty of Med-
icine, University of
KwaZulu-Natal, Dur-
ban, South Africa

Corresponding au- thor:

Raees Gangat,
211507345@stu.ukz
n.ac.za

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Background: Diabetic ketoacidosis is a life-threatening complication requiring prompt intervention. Understanding factors influencing the duration of emergency department (ED) stay is essential for optimizing patient care and resource utilization.

Methods: A retrospective review was conducted on patients diagnosed with diabetic ketoacidosis at a regional hospital in KwaZulu-Natal between March 2022 and March 2023. Demographics, precipitants, severity, potassium levels and time to resolution were analyzed to determine correlations between these variables and the duration of stay in the ED.

Results: Of the 156 records, 105 met the inclusion criteria. The mean age was 36.8 years, with 51.4% male and 98.1% of black ethnicity. Poor compliance (37.1%) and infection (31.4%) were the commonest precipitants. Longer durations in the ED (16.2 h, $p = 0.007$) were linked to cases with unknown precipitants. The median stay was 6 h–12 h, with infection linked to the longest mean duration (10.1 h). Recurrent episodes occurred in 38.1% of patients. Severe diabetic ketoacidosis (13.0 hours, $p = 0.001$) and a lower pH at presentation ($\beta = -19.6$, $p < 0.001$) were significantly associated with prolonged time to resolution. Potassium abnormalities (29.5%) had no significant effect on duration of stay ($p = 0.775$).

Conclusion: Unknown precipitants significantly influenced the length of stay in the ED. Infection, severe acidosis, and hypokalemia contributed with variable significance, highlighting that targeted interventions may potentially reduce congestion in these settings.

Contribution: This study provides valuable insights into factors influencing ED length of stay for diabetic ketoacidosis patients, offering evidence to improve clinical management and resource allocation in regional hospitals.

Keywords: diabetes; diabetic ketoacidosis; length of stay; emergency department; time to resolution.



Mpumuzu Clinic Open Day

On the 7th of May 2025; Mpumuzu Clinic hosted its annual Open Day event. The primary purpose was to connect with the community and enhance their understanding of the clinic's services, resources, and how they can benefit from them. It's an opportunity to provide health education, raise awareness about various health topics, and encourage community engagement in healthcare.



Audience listening to the speakers attentively

Open days also aim to create a welcoming and supportive environment for individuals to access healthcare services, especially those who may face barriers to accessing regular clinic visits. The main focus was on TB awareness where various guests educated the participants on TB and its dangers. The community was encouraged to continue testing and making sure that medication is taken appropriately. The Men's clinic was introduced and its services.

Taylors Halt Open Day

On the 5th of June 2025 Taylors Halt Clinic successfully hosted its annual Open Day event at Qoqisizwe High School. The event aimed at educating and empowering learners on vital health and social issues. The event brought together health professionals, law enforcement, correctional services and organizations that engage directly with young people. Mrs. ZS Ngubo Acting Operational Manager outlined the purpose of the event to provide learners with access to health services and awareness on challenges facing youth today. Presentations and discussions covered a wide range of important topics: SAPS Captain Nzimande addressed issues of drug abuse, crime, and bullying, urging learners to make responsible decisions and stay away from negative influences.



The health promotion team Sister Zuma and Sister Zondi educated learners on dangers of drug use, the impact of teenage pregnancy and the services offered through the Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services (AYFS) program.



SONGONZIMA CLINIC

Songonzima clinic hosted a Youth Day Event on the 20th of June 2025. Youth Day in June is a commemoration to honor the bravery and the sacrifice of the students who protested against the apartheid regime in South Africa in 1976. However The purpose of this event was to raise awareness to the youth of today about HIV/AIDS, TEENAGE PREGNANCY, BULLYING and SUBSTANCE ABUSE. The event had various speakers who motivated and urged the youth to stay away from these things. They were told that they shouldn't be afraid to go to clinic to enquire about their health, There are clinics

like AYFS (Adolescent and Youth Friend Services) which are made specifically for them.



Pictured above from left Dr KJ Gabela (Senior Manager: Medical Services) ; Miss N Khanyile (Outreach coordinator) and Mr. T Vilakazi (Songonzima Operational Manager) .



Audience listening to the speakers attentively



MAFAKATINI OUTREACH

On the 29th of May 2025, HGRH Outreach team in partnership with other government departments and NGO's hosted a community outreach campaign at Mafakatini community hall. The day main focus was to provide awareness, health screenings as well as exhibiting different stakeholders for community information. The community attendance on the day was amazing, thanks to the health soldiers our Community Health Care Workers (CHW's), community leadership and structures.



Provision of services by different stakeholders

YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION

On the 27th of June 2025 teen clinic hosted a youth day celebration for teenagers. The clinic was buzzing with energy as teens gathered to celebrate Youth Day. The theme was "OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE," and the atmosphere was electric. The day began with games at the sport ground, followed by a health workshop focused on mental wellness, led by CNP O.E Mkhize who shared the purpose of the day, Mrs. N Nxaba (CEO) then addressed the youth and emphasized on the importance of promoting healthy habits. The event had various speakers who educated and empowered the teens. The teens participated enthusiastically, sharing their own experiences. The clinic also offered free health screenings, HIV testing, and counseling services and more. As the day drew to a close, the teens gathered for refreshments, sharing stories and laughter. It was a celebration of youth, health, and empowerment – a memorable Youth Day indeed!



Mrs. NT Nxaba delivering her speech



SOPD BURNS AWARENESS

On the 05-9 may 2025 SOPD team conducted an awareness campaign outside SOPD clinic. They placed an exhibition table where they provided patient with health education focusing on cause of burn, immediate care post burns, prevention and management of burns as well as healthy eating. On the 28 may 2025 full programme done having invited physio and occupational therapy to do educate talks. This was an informative day, patient benefited from the talks provided.



Audience listening attentively to educational talks and presentation by the staff members.

GREATER EDENDALE MALL

HGRH was Honored to host a heart felt visit from Miss Gugu Manager of Greater Edendale mall and MR Ayanda manager of Debonair Pizza who generously donated clothes and pizza ton the children in wards 2f,7f and labour ward. The visit brought smiles to over 30 young patients the visitors moved through the ward their warmth and kindness filled the room bringing joy and excitement to both the children and their care gives our goal was simply to bring a bit of comfort and joy to the little one's said Miss Gugu seeing their smiles reminded us why giving is important. The Hospital Pediatric staff and management expressed deep gratitude for thoughtful gesture. MR Ayanda also encourage the hospital to reach out for support Debonair is always willing to lend a helping hand anyone is welcome to approach us for sponsorship and Donations.



COMRADES MARATHON



Thumbs up to the Comrades Medical Tent Team; pictured above from left Dr O Mfolozi (Medical Manager); Dr KJ Gabela (Senior Manager: Medical Services—comrade runner) and Dr N Dufourq (Head Clinical Unit: Emergency Department). Your continued support is highly appreciated!!!!



Congratulations to the 2025 HGRH comrades finishers. Pictured above from left Sister P Mahlobo; Mrs. S Mncube; Sir M Mtsi and Dr KJ Gabela.



EDITORIAL TEAM



PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE TEAM: pictured above from left—Nomusa Mtembu (Admin Officer), Nontobeko Buthelezi (PR inserv), Samuelisiwe Mncube (PRO), Londiwe Mhlanga (PR Inserv.) & Nonduduzo Zuma (Admin Intern)

Physical Address: Harry Gwala Regional Hospital
Lot 89 Selby Msimang Road
Plessislaer

Postal Address

Private Bag X509
3216

Web Address : www.kznhealth.gov.za

Switchboard:

033 395 4911

Switchboard Fax Number

033 395 4060

(17)



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