



health

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Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Emmaus District Hospital

MASAKHANE NEWS

STAY INFORMED

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HUNTING DOWN OF CORONAVIRUS BY HEALTH WORKERS CONTINUES

As South African's health experts watched the coronavirus race through Europe and begin to seed itself in the country, they made a pivotal decision. Instead of waiting for sick people to start swamping health facilities, potentially overwhelming the system, tens of thousands of health care workers (outreach teams) brought care to the people instead. In South Africa many people don't have their own cars or money to pay for public transportation, many here are grateful for the door to door campaigns and mobile clinics.

Despite on going lockdown, in which people are suppose to leave home only for essential reasons, in the township rows of shops are open, kids are playing tag and



Out reach team doing a door to door visit and screening family members for Covid-19 in Emmaus.



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PHC staff with other stakeholders handing out IEC material on Covid 19 during a roadblock in Bergville town.

and the traffic is bustling. The high number of patients being tested demonstrates South African's desire to be part of the solution, but the inability of many to stay home reflects wide spread poverty. A quarter of South African's live in rural areas where running water is intermittent, and people have to fetch water from the tank, which makes it difficult to have enough for cooking, cleaning and washing hands. Health experts say that in a country like ours lockdowns may lead to societal unrest this then makes extensive testing, monitoring and quarantining even more essential. Emmaus Hospital is in such a setting but our hospital staff, PHC staff together with outreach teams, community health care workers and our partners went all out to screen, educate and treat Covid -19 patients as they were admitted in our dedicated ward for Covid—19. The normal set up of services that we had always known changed and as we all know change is not easy and usually it comes with uncertainties and anxiety. This then meant that the Management team had to work twice as hard to make sure that service delivery is not compromised as all staff members were panicking as the number of infection were rising everyday. The availability of personal protective equipment was vital as staff members needed to be protected on an everyday basis, this then meant that continuous monitoring of PPE's be done and be reported on to staff and organised labour to ease the fear for staff members contracting the disease. Meetings were the order of the day as guidelines were continuously updated and the monitoring and reporting tools were also changing on a daily basis, so updates for all staff was essential as we all needed to be on the same page in order to flatten the curve that was continuously hitting a hike. This showed us that each and every employee has an important role that they play in service delivery and without the other we are likely to not be fully productive.

NURSES DAY OF PRAYER

Nurses are an integral part of the health-care system. Not only do they deliver outstanding care and support to patients and their families, they also advocate on behalf of patients. They work to make sure that patients receive the best possible care and are committed to improving the quality of care that will be available in the future. Nurses also offer support to all patients who are on a journey to whole health. That goes far beyond administering medicine, checking blood pressure and relaying questions to a doctor.

Nurses are there to listen, support and help to connect patients to resources they may need — whether that's a support group to help patients to manage their diagnosis, a chaplain to lean on or just a quiet moment together as patients share their questions and worries. This commitment and attention to detail helps patients to live healthier physical, mental and spiritual lives.

During the Nurses Day of Prayer on the 12th of May 2020, Deputy Nursing Manager Ms PPJ van der Plank during her speech said that Nurses should continue to advocate for patients and always carry with them the spirit of UBUNTU as guided by the Bathopele principles. She continued to request Nurses to take precautional measures as the Pandemic has already hit South Africa, she assured Nurses that the Management is doing all they can to make sure that all necessary Personal Protective Equipment is available at all times to minimize the risk of staff being infected with corona virus. In closing she urged the nurses to trust God and pray unto him for protection as they are going to be nursing patients with covid- 19 and other illnesses.

Operational Manager FZN Magubane shared a word of God with the Nurses where she encouraged the nurses to make God their hiding place, so that he can protect them from all harm. Matron S Dunne together with the nurses did the hand washing activity as a reminder for staff to always practice hand wash after every patient. Pictures : 1&2 Nurses lighting of candles and the reading of the Nurses pledge. 3. O.M Magubane sharing the word. 4. Deputy Nursing Manager Ms PPJ van der Plank encouraging Nurses to soldier on as they will have to see to patients with different illnesses.



GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW MEDICAL MANAGER

The onset of the new Corona virus pandemic has tasked healthcare professionals to their limits in terms of clinical and psychological thresholds. Worldwide there is appreciation and search for excellent providers of quality healthcare. For Emmaus hospital being a rural hospital it has always being a dilemma of a swinging pendulum when it comes to hiring health professionals. The appointment of a new medical manager after some period of searching a decent candidate could not have come at a better time than this.

Dr AO Apelehin was appointed as the Medical Manager of Emmaus Hospital in February 2020. He is a trained specialist Family Physician who has been in the services of KZN Department of Health for over a decade. He has worked in hospitals previously in Edendale, Church of Scotland, Northdale, Grey's and Ngwelezane hospitals.

In conversations with Dr Apelehin he stated that he was quite impressed with the work the previous and longstanding healthcare professionals and management had done in maintain a good standard of care for the community of Okhahlamba. He said he appreciated the camaraderie amongst staff and the willing to offer the best in terms of healthcare to clients.

For him, advancing further the standards of care to the best possible level is his mandate. Luckily for him, he seemed prepared prior to this. Dr Apelehin is a four-year trained specialist Family Physician with responsibilities from his training which includes a provider of excellent clinical services, manager of resources, a teacher and trainer of healthcare professionals and dogged determination to prevent disease even before the occur.

In addition to managerial skills, Dr Apelehin also brought to Emmaus hospital diverse experience and postgraduate certifications in the medical field of Anaesthesia, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Psychiatry, Paediatrics and HIV Management. His plan for Emmaus hospital is to improve the scope and quality of clinical practice and excellence to the community of Okhahlamba. He is passionate about provision of excellent healthcare and the prevention of disease based on his training as a Family Physician. Regarding the continuum of services and transfer of patient, he hopes if the skills of medical staff is improve this will translate to improved use of resources with need for unnecessary referral thus creating a good holistic health experience for the clients.

Dr Apelehin is currently working with all stakeholders in the hospital to ensure reduction in the spread, presentation and outcome of the novel Corona virus pandemic. The hospital has been praised by the district for its approach in preparation, segregation and management of patients (both infected and non-infected) since the onset of the pandemic. He and his management team worked round the clock to ensure partitioning of wards, provisions of personal protective equipment to members of staff, organize a reasonable system of screening and identification of persons at risk

The new medical manager's philosophy is centered around team spirit. He said "We can achieve a lot if we all work together as a team with each person playing their part in the provision of quality healthcare to the OKhahlamba community while caring for the next healthcare worker like a brother or sister".



DR A.O APELEHIN
Medical Manager

MANDELA DAY ACTIVITY

Mandela Day is a day of remembrance, for one of our most famous, influential, heroic and iconic leader Dr Nelson Mandela, South Africans first democratic president. Mandela day is not only a day of remembrance but also a day every individual is stepping up and showing ones power to make a change in the community we leave in. The purpose of this day is to take action, make a difference in our communities and bringing hope to those that have given up. It is believed that change starts in every-one of us, so we are urged to use this day for good deeds in our communities and going an extra mile for those who are less fortunate by fighting poverty and improving cultural diversity. Unlike Christmas where you exchange gifts with friends and family Mandela day is about doing something and expecting nothing in return.

In 2020 things were different due to the pandemic, however the Hospital being the pillar of strength for its community went on to uplifting the late South African former president's dream to fight poverty especially in the most difficult time where the country had to be locked down and many people lost their jobs. Through the help of our Social worker Mr Gumede we were able to identify a family that really needed our support, staff members were roped in to donate different items to assist this family.

The management of Emmaus Hospital would like to thank all staff members for their act of kindness as food, toiletries, baby food, nappies and clothes were handed over on the (29 July 2020) to the family in Thunzini area. The family was extremely happy to receive all the donations from management and staff and said that the gesture was heart warming as they will now go to bed having had a decent meal.

We want to say thank you to everyone who donated towards this activity and seeing the happiness in the families faces was priceless. **#CaringisGiving** remember "blessed is the hand that giveth than the one that taketh". Below are the pictures of the family and staff members of the hospital who were part of the delegation that went to deliver the donated goods to the family.



WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

On Monday the 4th to the 7th of August 2020 our Dietetics Department together with the Therapy Department and POPD embarked on breastfeeding awareness around the hospital. Different activities were carried out which included putting up posters explaining the 10 steps to successful breastfeeding which were then explained to mothers in small groups in different areas throughout the hospital in the form of nutrition education and the mothers were then given chance to ask the dietitian breastfeeding related questions.

Posters on breastfeeding education were also sent to all the Okhahlamba sub-district clinics via transport to use throughout the week to educate patients in waiting areas on breastfeeding. Breast feeding mothers were also told that it is their right to express breast milk as employers are required by the Labour law act to provide breastfeeding mothers with 2 x 30 minute breaks a day to express milk and to provide a safe, clean and private place to do so and a fridge/ cooler box to keep the milk cold. Mothers were then encouraged to continue breastfeeding when returning to work.

Badges were made stating support of breastfeeding and were handed out to staff members/ nurses/ doctors at Emmaus Hospital. These badges were worn throughout the week. Rice crispy treats in the shape of breasts were made and handed out to new mothers in the maternity ward and mothers and babies in Paeds ward.



PINK DRIVE CAMPAIGN

Social development Deputy minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu led a three day free medical outreach programme recently in UThukela district. On the 16th of September 2020 she visited Oliviershoek clinic under uKhahlamba Sub-district and during this campaign the community could apply for the birth certificate from the Department of Home Affairs, and social grants at the SASSA mobile unit. A-lmdaad Foundation co-ordinator Abed Karrim pledged their commitment to ensure the communities benefit from such outreach programmes and used the free facilities that have been provided to improve their health. “By using these facilities and the benefits of the campaign, people can have their health seen to if they are ill and be treated if needed”, said Karrim.

While all this was being done, the community participated in education on women’s health, got free pap smears as well a demonstration on self-breast examination, mammogram and PSA screening for men over the age 40 years from the PinkDrive Campaign.

PinkDrive NPC, a health sector NGO, was founded in 2009 by Noelene Kotschan, on the premise that “early detection will help prolong a life”. Their purpose is to contribute meaningfully towards preventing as many people as it can, from succumbing to breast, cervical, prostate and testicular cancer. Its primary focus is on citizens without access to reasonable care for these conditions, and who reside in areas where health services do not reach. Ndabezitha Menzi Hlongwane king of Amangwane said he was happy for his people to have benefited from the services the outreach had to offer.



1. **Picture 01**– Social development Deputy minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu showing Ndabezitha Menzi Hlongwane inside the truck where mammograms are done.

2. **Picture 02**- Deputy Minister Bogopane encouraging men over 40 years to do prostate cancer screening from the PinkDrive Campaign.

3. **Picture 03**- people queuing for Dep. Of Home Affairs services.



IXOXWA NGEZITHOMBE



Our Covid ward staff members geared up for action.



Islamic Medical Association handing out face masks to patients in waiting areas.



Heritage day celebrations



FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Ms M.A.N Mzizi– CEO

The past 6 months were not easy for health facilities as from the 16th of March 2020 till to date the corona virus cribbed in and changed the way health services function under normal circumstances. Emmaus Hospital management would like to thank Lucky Magwaza who managed to distribute pamphlets on Covid19 to schools on the 16th & 17th march before schools closed, pharmacy staff lead by Pharmacy Manager Ms. S Khan who provided the entire facility including clinics with hand sanitizers from 16 March till to date, Maintenance staff led by Mr. L Viljoen for partitioning Peads and Maternity wards so that we could also accommodate Covid19 positive patients in these wards.

Hospital Management wish to extend gratitude to all employees of Okhahlamba sub district for continuing with providing services to the people of our catchment area, this includes our partners HST and JPIEGO for ensuring that our community is screened daily including weekends and public holidays, and also by looking after our patients once admitted and supporting each other during these difficult times.

A special thank you to the following departments: SCM led by Mr. S.W Mfuphi for ensuring that throughout the Covid19 journey PPEs were always available, M&E team led by AMN K.S Dunne for ensuring that all staff are trained on IPC practices and on the guidelines on Covid19, Nursing component led by DMN PPJ van der Plank for making packs, controlling PPEs and providing care for both our out and in patients, Medical Manager Dr A.O Apelehin by ensuring that protocols and SOPs are in place and the Clinical team for being team players during this difficult time, our departments under Systems and Human Resources as well as our Public Relations Department for making sure that information relating to covid19 was readily available and for working together with our local Municipality (Communications Department) in disseminating information to the people of uKhahlamba. The Hospital Boards support was very crucial during this time and we are grateful for the support. Last but not least the PHC team led by AMN D.Z Hlongwane who is continuing with screening of the community so as to be able to identify affected and infected individuals and refer them accordingly. Our outsourced companies BKT cleaning service, Bidvest Catering services, BusiB390 trading and KwaMyaluzza security also jumped in the wagon and assisted in the fight against Covid19. Lastly we also want to say thank you to Organized Labour for working together with the Management team in making sure that concerns of our staff members were addressed in the meetings that we would have to continuously keep each other updated on issues that concerned our staff members. In closing I would like to welcome all new staff members that have joined us and congratulate those that were promoted to higher posts and we thank the Lord almighty for keeping all of us safe till this far, we have heard of staff members who passed on because of the virus but we at Emmaus Hospital were lucky to have worked in the hotspot for covid19 and having had our staff being infected by the virus but did not report any death of a staff member. Let us continue to work as a team and support each other as the virus has clearly showed us that we all need each other and that every staff member has a very important role to play in providing our people with quality health care services.

ALUTA CONTINUA !!!

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