



## MDR TB CLINIC HAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS DOORS TO PATIENTS

Estcourt hospital in partnership with Uthukela Health District has declared the MDR TB clinic open on the 15 January 2015. It is the first of its kind within Uthukela District and will serve the entire district in the fight against the spread of this drug resistant contagious disease. Our sincere gratitude goes to the holy samaritarians from University Research Co. for donating a spacious park home which is used for this project and that made institutional work much easier because hospital structure could not accommodate this project.

These new exciting developments of decentralizing MDR TB treatment to the District were welcomed by different communities saying that it will be more effective to patients because they are not going to be taken away from their families and in touch with their social lives. Hospital management concurred with clients and further added that the decentralization of treatment will ease burden placed on hospitals that have to accommodate patients that require lengthy stay.

MDR TB clinic will be working only on Tuesdays and Thursdays for now with the focus on initiating treatment to patients and at a later stage patients belonging to this District in other institutions will be



Sr. Majola assisting patient during the clinic official opening

down referred for further management. This will assist us decrease defaulter rate to minimal because patients will be closer to their homes and will be easily traced in case they default treatment.

Estcourt hospital management is pleased that their dream of having a satellite MDR TB clinic has finally become a reality and further made a commitment that the team placed in this clinic will work tirelessly to ensure that patients are initiated on treatment as soon as possible and from now on no patient die while waiting for him or her to be initiated on treatment.

Compiled by Zandile Mngomezulu– Estcourt Hospital PRO



Mrs. Z. Buthelezi from Uthukela Health District (first from left) with TB team and benchmarking site delegation



MDR TB team ready to assist patients as the clinic opens its doors