

1 October 2016

## **KZN Health MEC launches the first ever Councilor led Central Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) site**

MEC Dhlomo has hailed the initiative by the Newcastle Municipality Councilor to donate his property to be used as a pick up point for chronic medication. This after he together with the Amajuba District Mayor, Dr Musa Ngubane and Newcastle Municipality Mayor, Cllr Makhosini Nkosi visited the facility on Friday, September, 30.

The Central Chronic Medicine Distribution and Dispensing (CCMDD) programme is an initiative by the Department of health aimed at improving patient access to needed medicines, especially for those on chronic medication.

KZN Province already has 256 673 patients who are accessing care through the pickup points that have been established. MEC Dhlomo says this initiative has many benefits for both the patients and the Department:

‘At most stable patients are no longer required to travel to a health facility and wait several hours to collect their chronic medication on a monthly basis. Secondly, it assists the Department to decongest the public clinics and this allows space and time for nurses and doctors to attend to emergency cases and enroll new patients on Antiretroviral treatment in compliance to the Universal Test and Treat strategy started in September 1.’

The Newcastle Municipality based Councilor, Greaterman Thwala, says he decided to donate the building that he initially wanted to use as the Early Childhood Development Centre to the Mndozo Community as a way to thank them for trusting and selecting him as their Councilor.

The modern structure that operates from Monday to Friday between the hours of 7 and 16h00 is known as Philakahle Pick-up Point. The facility is supported by the Assistant Pharmacists trained by Khethimpilo Non-Governmental Organisation. It also has a system installed by Medi-Logistics that detects those patients that do not collect their medication and these are traced and tracked down by the Community Care Givers.

MEC Dhlomo says people across the Province should inquire from their clinics as to where they can be registered in order to get enrolled to the pickup points closer to where they reside. Targeted patients are those that are now stable and are on hypertension, diabetes or HIV medication. MEC Dhlomo says compliance remains crucial:

‘It is important that patients should collect and take medication as directed. It is also important that patients return to their mother clinics after every 5 months for fresh screening; those on HIV medication have their viral load checked at least once a year and those not feeling unwell, return to the clinics.’



*Cllr Thwala; Amajuba District Municipality Mayor, Dr Musa Ngubane; MEC Dhlomo and Newcastle Municipality Mayor, Cllr Makhosini Nkosi*



*MEC with Pharmacy Assistants Siyabonga Mngomezulu and Amanda Nkosi*