

# Launch and distribution of 15 new cervical cancer machines to significantly reduce treatment waiting times

02 April 2018

Dear Media Colleague,

You are cordially invited to the unveiling and presentation of 15 brand new machines that will significantly reduce the waiting times for cervical cancer treatment in the Province. The launch will take place at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital on Wednesday, 04 March 2018, at 08h00.

One of the most effective procedures to prevent cancer of the cervix occurring in women who have been identified as being at high risk is the LLETZ procedure (Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone of the cervix). The function of the LLETZ machine is to conduct a small surgical procedure on the woman's cervix.

Using electrical current, the LLETZ procedure removes that part of the cervix where the cells are becoming abnormal (dysplastic), which might otherwise develop into cancer. These abnormal cells can be detected by a pap smear, which must be done regularly. An important feature of cancer of the cervix is that the disease has a long pre-cancer phase which lasts for several years. This provides an opportunity to detect it (by Pap smear) and then to treat it with the LLETZ procedure before it progresses to cancer. Unlike many cancers, cancer of the cervix is preventable.

The Department will be presenting 15 (fifteen) of these machines, which will be distributed to hospitals around the province.

The new machines will therefore increase the capacity to prevent cancer of the cervix in KZN by allowing this procedure to be available in more sites.

Details of the presentation of the LLETZ machines are as follows:

- Date: 04 April 2018
- Venue: Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital
- Time: 08H00

For enquiries, kindly contact Desmond Motha on 083 295 3901.