



PRIVATE HEALTHCARE FORUM

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Private Healthcare Forum (hereinafter referred to as “the Forum”) represents key strategic interests in the private healthcare sector in South Africa. The Forum is a loose association of voluntary members and was formally constituted in 2003.

The Forum’s current members include:

The Board of Healthcare Funders; The South African Medical Association; Hospital Association of South Africa; Innovative Medicines South Africa; The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Association of South Africa; The National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers; The South African Medical Devices Industry Association; The South African Dental Association; The National Pathology Group of SAMA, The South African Society of Physiotherapy, The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa, The Chiropractic Association of South Africa; The Self-medication Manufacturers Association of South Africa; The Society of Private Nursing Practitioners and The Health Products Association of Southern Africa

It is intended that the Forum be used as a platform to articulate sector views and opinions in the interests of sustainable and quality healthcare in our country.

The Forum believes the private healthcare industry is a national asset with a long and proud record of providing an enviable standard of quality products and services to sectors of the South African public. As such its value ought to be recognized and protected and it’s potential to contribute more widely to the overall healthcare needs of the nation, exploited.

The Forum believes that it is only through a relationship of consultation and co-operation between the government and other major stakeholders in South African healthcare that the healthcare needs of the nation can be adequately served. In its engagement with these parties it will strive at all times to be pro-active and solution-oriented.

The Forum accordingly subscribes to the following principles:

Consideration of the National Interest:

The Forum will act in the national interest by:

- Engaging the state and other stakeholders with a view to participating in effective ways to tackle the transitional disease burden such as the HIV/Aids pandemic; TB; malaria; trauma; cancer and heart disease.
- Supporting initiatives which widen access to healthcare
- Support for a regulatory framework which enhances private sector involvement

The Forum recognizes the value of a regulatory framework which:

- Upholds the market and competition as key to driving efficiencies and cost effectiveness in the healthcare system, and
- Encourages socially responsible and prudent healthcare practices
- Is the product of inclusive public policy making in which the views of key interested parties are taken into account
- Includes private sector representation on statutory bodies regulating healthcare
- Allows a fair return on investment and encourages research, innovation and development

- Prohibits collusive behaviour that acts against the consumers interest, and promotes sound corporate governance

Support for transformation

The Forum subscribes to a progressive process of transformation that will build even greater confidence in the private healthcare sector. To this end it will act as a catalyst for ideas and debate on empowerment, influence and representation within the sector.

Support for continuous improvement in the quality of healthcare

The Forum will encourage continuous improvement in the quality of healthcare. In order to identify and act upon possibilities for improvement:

- It will promote price transparency
- It will benchmark the sector at all levels against comparative international best practice

Recognition of the role of the State and the importance of engagement

The Forum recognizes the pivotal role of the state in the development and implementation of national healthcare policy.

It will pursue a vibrant and comprehensive engagement with the state to add value to healthcare policy development and to foster the concept of public private partnerships that will manifest in key areas of the healthcare system.

PRIVATE HEALTHCARE FORUM

1. Vision

The Private Healthcare Forum stands for:

- Equitable access for all to a minimum package of essential healthcare services that are affordable within the economic constraints of the country;
- Freedom for citizens to acquire healthcare services in excess of the essential package;
- A regulatory and fiscal framework that promotes sustainability through market efficiencies and continuing investment;
- Continuous and efficient access to the most cost effective technologies, methods and products available globally;
- Synergy between the public and private healthcare sectors that leads to the efficient distribution and use of resources;
- Continuous improvements in healthcare outcomes through ongoing research, education and information management;
- Transformation towards a sector characterised by:
 - Equitable access to quality services based on necessity;
 - Ownership, management and employment structures that reflect the demographic profile of the population

2. Mission

The Private Healthcare Forum strives to:

- Enhance the relationship between private sector stakeholders and government through the exchange of information and views relating to matters of policy and regulation;
- Recommend sustainable solutions to address market inefficiencies that impact adversely on the growth and sustainability of the healthcare sector;
- Promote the role of the private healthcare sector within the national health system envisaged by the government;
- Provide a channel for constructive engagement between its members and stakeholders on matters relating to the design and implementation of a transformation health charter;
- Build confidence in the private healthcare sector through informed engagement with the media and the investment community.