



Reference: DoH launch mobile app primary health
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Circular 71 of 2015: DoH launches mobile app for Primary Health Care Standards

The National Department of Health (NDoH) recently launched a mobile application that seeks to improve primary healthcare services in the health sector in South Africa.

The mobile application is an information and communication tool that can empower the primary healthcare worker, reduce the burden on secondary and tertiary services and strengthen the delivery of equitable and effective healthcare.

The mobile application is for the Primary Health Care Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List, which was released on 25 November 2015. This is the first step towards the effective dissemination and implementation of the revised guidelines. It is also a useful tool that can help all healthcare professionals to better use antimicrobials in such a way as to decrease antimicrobial resistance and improve patient outcomes.

Currently, access to the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List is mainly paper-based in the form of books, which are distributed to various health facilities and academic institutions. However, through the new mobile application, healthcare workers will not need to refer to papers when doing their job.

The app is for all categories of healthcare professionals, healthcare workers, managers at district, provincial and national level and community-based organisations involved in medicine use.

It has been made available on most modern smart phones, including Android, Apple and Windows. The application can be downloaded from Google Play Store and it is called PHC Clinical Guide.

Features

The application has features such as the cardiovascular risk assessment tool, which efficiently calculates a patient's percentage risk of having a cardiovascular event, such as a stroke or a heart attack in the next 10 years, among other things; the pediatric drug dosage calculator, which accurately calculates the weight or age-based dosage for the most common medications on the

Essential Medicines List, among others; and the medicine stock-out tool, which allows healthcare professionals to report medication shortage and stock-outs directly to the Department of Health.

The NDoH has warned that the mobile application is not intended to entirely replace other clinical formats. The intention is to add to existing tools to promote rational medicine use, improve access to essential medicines and provide better patient care.

Those in the private medical schemes industry are encouraged to make use of the app to provide better patient care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lehutjo', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Mr Daniel Lehutjo
Acting Registrar
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