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PRIVATE PRACTICE

South African Medical Association

Association incorporated under section 21 Reg No 1927/000136/08

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The South African Medical Association (SAMA) is a non-profit, Section 21 company that acts as a professional association for both public sector and private practice medical doctors. To this end SAMA has a dedicated Private Practice Department, (PPD) which strives to improve the professional environment of both General Practitioners and Specialists in Private Practice.

SAMA's PPD champions doctors' rights and causes in its interactions with National and Provincial Governments; the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA); other regulators and all the major role players within the healthcare funding and administration industry. The PPD constantly focuses on promoting and strengthening private medical practice in order to protect its fundamental characteristics and promote its pivotal role in the private health care continuum.

SAMA OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO ALL MEMBERS

- Protection of doctors' scope of practice by protecting and updating the Doctors Billing Manual.
- Full legal services department that reviews all contracts, gives advice pertaining to HPCSA hearings and all other practice related legal issues.
- A medical coding unit that provides free procedural and diagnostic coding advice to SAMA members and their office staff.
- The foremost provider of CME opportunities in conjunction with the Foundation for Professional Development.
- Online training programmes.
- Two free medical journals and a doctor's non-clinical magazine every month.

THE PRIVATE PRACTICE DEPARTMENT of SAMA reports to its members through the respective General Practitioner and Specialist Private Practice Committees. The PPD itself consists of a Head of department, Dr Darian van Loggerenberg; a secretariat for each of its constituent committees; a Medical Coding unit headed by Ms Glenda de Beer who is ably assisted by Ms Leonie Maritz and Ms Zandile Dube and a dedicated project manager in Dr Jacques Botha.

WHAT DOES SAMA DO FOR PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS

The South African Private Healthcare environment is dominated by large companies that have almost limitless funds at their disposal to determine their own financial risks and then pay doctors accordingly. Many of these companies are now so brazen that they have started telling doctors how to treat their patients and how to run their practices. In order to assist doctors to manage the myriad of risks inherent to private practice, SAMA has engaged new technology applications - many of which are unique to SAMA and our members.

NEW PROJECTS THAT WILL ADD VALUE TO YOUR PRACTICE

- NHI Task teams to ensure that doctors influence the eventual design of NHI.
- National Projects to assist and address inherent private practice risks.
- Establishing a Designated Service Provider Network.
- New Technology Interface development.
- Practice management tools.
- Electronic DBM and electronic CCSA with search functions.

- Practice Cost Calculator to determine own tariff
- Medical Scheme rating tool
- Medical Advisor rating system

VALUE ADDED BENEFITS THAT SAMA OFFERS MEMBERS AT NO COST

- Fully automated CPD risk assessment manager.
- CPD collection and HPCSA submission application.
- Knowledge share database.
- Pharmaceutical database.
- Wound care and Medical Technology database.
- Unique, customised webpage for each member.
- Unique, customised homepage for each member.
- Locums database.
- An electronic DBM code search engine.
- Medical Scheme Tariff Comparison tool.
- Medical Practice Geomapping tool.
- PPPP - Private Public Partnership Projects.
- Exclusive free and discounted services and products from some of the top companies in South Africa.

The function of the PPD is to stand up for doctors: the more members that we have, the stronger our voice. It is only through unity that doctors will be able to reclaim their rightful place as the most important decision makers in the healthcare chain.