



NEWS UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2016

TO: All stakeholders

Dear Colleagues

Herewith a brief news update on the following points for your information:

1. Emergency Care Clinical Practice Guidelines
2. ECSSA incorporation as NPC
3. Concerns surrounding attacks on EMS personnel
4. Transitional plans into 2017

1. EMERGENCY CARE CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

During the month of October 2016, a release emanated from the HPCSA relating to the Clinical Practice Guidelines intended for future implementation within the local EMS environment. As reported in a previous News Update, the CPG's form an important landmark in the transformation of our EMS profession, particularly when considering the underlying evidence-orientated basis giving rise to these recommendations.

The CPG's in their existing format consist of a draft document that has been circulated to EMS stakeholders for further comment. The associated commentary in turn is due to be considered by the HPCSA's Professional Board for Emergency Care (PBEC), prior to formal implementation of the ultimate Clinical Practice Guidelines and related Scopes of Practice. These CPG's represent the most significant update in the history of regulated Scopes of Practice published by the PBEC, and thus warrant careful consideration and comment where deemed necessary and appropriate by concerned stakeholders.

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Whilst the research methods and science leading to the current reference document are both rigorous and sound, it is imperative to ensure a smooth transition for purposes of practical implementation. We currently await further advice in connection with the implementation plan envisioned by the PBEC for the CPG's in this respect; in particular also taking the interests of currently registered professionals into account.

The current closing date for the submission of comments on the CPG's is **27 JANUARY 2017** and a related notice from the HPCSA can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.hpcsa.co.za/PBEmergencyCare/ProFees>

2. ECSSA INCORPORATION AS NPC

In line with our organisational development plan, we are proud to announce that the Emergency Care Society of South Africa has formally been incorporated as a Non-Profit Company (NPC). It is our hope that this move will be a valuable first step in securing our position as a professional society that has been established with the aim of advancing and representing pre-hospital emergency care in South Africa.

The Society has been plotting an extensive integration plan over the past two years with the goal properly vesting itself as the premier professional society for the emergency care profession in South Africa. There is still a very long path ahead, however, within the framework of our current plans, we would like to see ECSSA gaining acceptance amongst colleagues as the preferred partner in professional development with the capability of contributing towards both personal and professional development of emergency care providers across different levels of qualification. Another key feature of the Society is advocacy on different issues affecting the EMS profession.

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One principal objective in this regard relates to ensuring that relevant reliable information reaches the members of the profession and that a platform is developed where the views of colleagues can ultimately be aired.

3. CONCERNS SURROUNDING ATTACKS ON EMS PERSONNEL

2016 has been a particularly disturbing year, considering the number of violent on-scene attacks on EMS personnel. Numerous incidents have been reported in both Johannesburg and the Western Cape generally. This conduct is totally condemned and we would like to urge EMS providers to remain absolutely vigilant at all times. It is important to remember that the key principle taught on any EMS training programme is that personal safety **always** comes first.

If at all possible, it is strongly recommended that EMS entering a known hotspot or dangerous area should await the support of SAPS or local police authorities. Colleagues affected by attacks must please be sure to formally report their cases to SAPS in order for there to be a proper record and accurate statistics on this significant issue.

EMS employers in turn are encouraged to ensure that their personnel are properly supported through and Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and that swift supportive action is taken to provide the necessary counselling and support to EMS providers that have been the subject of an attack in the course of providing service to their communities.

Remember that acute awareness saves lives!

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4. TRANSITIONAL PLANS INTO 2017

2017 promises to be a truly exciting year!

We have spent a lot of time in 2016 to plot our actual value proposition to current and prospective members. In 2017, once our membership database has been properly audited, we will be launching new membership categories with the realigned value proposition attached to each class.

An essential overall aim for us as an organisation is to partner with our members on a defined professional development pathway that is intended to contribute towards their professional, cognitive and clinical ability. More details around the membership options will be advertised in the new year, once our stakeholder engagements have been properly finalised. In addition, the Society is working on some very exciting projects in the areas of academic development, behavioural emergencies, intensive care & patient retrieval and especially also continuous professional development. We will be sure to advise our members more regularly in the new year of the Society's activities and projects to ensure that colleagues are included and involved in our processes.

Wishing you well!

EMERGENCY CARE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

ISSUED BY:
ECSSA PR COMMITTEE
28 November 2016

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