



To:

**All practitioners registered with the Medical and Dental Board
Faculties of Health Sciences with approved specialist training programmes
Provincial Government Departments of Health
Professional Associations**

**RE: WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICES BY CLINICAL STAFF IN THE PROVINCE OF
GAUTENG**

The Medical & Dental Board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (MDB) has noted with great concern the developments in Gauteng arising out of a contractual dispute between the provincial health authority and clinicians, servicing the tertiary health platform of the province.

The dispute has resulted in clinicians withdrawing, to various extents, their labour for after-hours service provision as the provincial government had failed to compensate them for after-hours worked in the month of April 2025.

From the outset, the MDB wishes to place it on record that the principle of fair labour practice that respects agreements entered in good faith is supported by the Board. We urge the provincial authority to engage in a spirit that reflects a mutual recognition of said principles.

The MDB also reminds practitioners of their ethical responsibilities to society as enshrined in the regulations that underpin their registration with the Board. In terms thereof, practitioner conduct should not imperil the health of the public, whether by omission or through failure to act in the best interests of members of the public. The withdrawal of after-hours cover for clinical care exposes those in urgent need of care to potential harm and suffering, resulting in a breach of the ethical code of professional practice.

To that extent, those employed in positions of supervision are reminded of their responsibility to provide consultant cover, in whatever form, to junior colleagues delivering clinical care to safeguard the safety of members of the public seeking care in their facilities.

Similarly, specialist training programmes are approved conditional upon the existence of adequate supervision of trainees on the relevant platform. The failure of training supervisors to guarantee this condition, by not being available to registrars' after-hours, will compromise the quality of training and possibly result in any such exposure being discounted from recognition.

Academic programme leaders are urged to ensure continued supervision of registrars when they provide after-hours services to ensure compliance with the conditions of programme accreditation.

Issued by: Medical and Dental Professions Board

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Date: 15 May 2025

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