

Feedback: KZN PHSDSBC Chamber Meeting (4 December 2020): Addington Hospital - Temporary movement of services to other institutions

Infrastructure challenges

Following ongoing infrastructure challenges at Addington Hospital and the MEC's media statement to divert patients to other health facilities, labour requested a special Chamber meeting. It was further established that the employer has an intention to move certain services to King DiniZulu and Wentworth Hospitals. The PSA was not consulted on the rationalisation of services nor was it clear whether members would be requested to move as well. The PSA demanded that the process be put on hold until there is a proper consultation.

Employer presentations

The employer reported that the decision to replace lifts resulted in an interim contract being awarded to OTIS in June 2020. There was a delay in ordering the new lifts and delivery is expected in February 2021 for installation. The PSA raised concerns on the lack of consequence management against the hospital management and CEO for their failure to ensure the safety of employees. The PSA demanded an investigation into the wasteful expenditure on the maintenance over the past eight years.

Lifts replacement programme

It is planned that the front patient lifts and service lifts for food, linen and waste will receive priority. The employer further reported that the Department will install an electronic monitoring system on new lifts that will automatically report breakdowns in real time.

Service delivery arrangements

The employer indicated that movement of services will be in three phases:

- Phase 1 - EMS will take cases to nearby hospitals to take pressure off the movement of patients between wards and theatre in Addington Hospital. This diversion will be reviewed on a regular basis.
- Phase 2 - Relocation of surgical services to Wentworth Hospital and O&G to King DiniZulu Hospital temporarily.
- Phase 3 - Relocation of orthopaedic and ICU services.

A Chamber task team has been established to deal with the temporary movement of services.

Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER