



IAP Council Meets in Cape Town

COHSASA was delighted to be host the face-to-face meeting of ISQua International Accreditation Programme (IAP) Council recently in Cape Town.

The meeting brought together leaders in the field of quality improvement and accreditation from all parts of the globe...

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Message from the CEO, Professor Stuart Whittaker – A Survey of COHSASA this Past Year

"The past year has seen a number of significant developments at COHSASA. One of the most noteworthy of these is the fact that COHSASA achieved its third international accreditation, awarded in January 2011 by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua)..."

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ISQua Approves COHSASA's Surveyor Training Programme

At the ISQua Executive Board meeting in February 2012, ISQua Accreditation for COHSASA's Surveyor Training Programme was endorsed and approved for four years, effective from February 2012 to January 2016.

The announcement coincided with the first batch of five...

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Contact the editor of Quality Online, Marilyn Keegan [here](#).

New COHSASA Quality Improvement Plan

The new COHSASA Quality Improvement Plan which provides healthcare facility staff with a clear, web-based step-by-step guide on addressing deficiencies in their facilities was launched in February 2012.

The programme, written by Jalalodien Abrahams, COHSASA's Systems Development Manager, assists facilities to address shortcomings in a logical and sequential plan, starting with the most critical deficiencies. The plan makes it possible healthcare managers to immediately assess where effort and resources will best be deployed and to monitor improvements in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Patient Safety and AIMS (Advanced Incident Management System) Update

Patient Safety refers to the absence of preventable harm brought about during health care.



GP and Family Practitioner Accreditation Programme Progressing

The General and Family Practitioner Accreditation Programme proceeds apace with the development of standards that cover all aspects of service delivery, from facilities to patient rights.

Feedback from a wide range of stakeholders has been...

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COHSASA to Work in Namibian Hospitals

COHSASA has met with the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services to discuss the implementation of a quality improvement programme using CoQIS at two hospitals and a community health centre in Namibia.

The discussions are part of a subagreement between COHSASA and Management Sciences for Health (MSH)...

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SafeCare Foundation on the Horizon...

Three organizations from three different continents have taken the next step in their commitment and dedication to improve the safety and quality of health care provided in resource-restricted countries.

COHSASA, the PharmAccess Foundation of the Netherlands and U.S.-based Joint Commission...

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SafeCare Standards for Mobile Clinics

A three-person team from COHSASA travelled to Windhoek and Walvis Bay in Namibia recently to assess to what extent the current SafeCare standards might be adapted for use in mobile clinics operating under the Mister Sister Mobile Health Service and North Star Alliance banners.

A first draft of the revised standards has been compiled...

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Harm done to a patient during healthcare management is known as an adverse event. Adverse events occur as complications of medical or surgical management and exclude natural complications of the underlying disease process.

The Advanced Incident Management System (AIMS) used by COHSASA was developed in Australia by the Patient Safety Foundation. COHSASA is the distributor of AIMS for CSC (iSOFT) in South Africa. AIMS was first implemented in the Free State province during August 2007 for the purpose of investigating the relationship between quality improvement initiatives and the incidence of adverse events.

There continues to be voluntary participation in the AIMS programme by the Department of Health of the Free State province (FSDoH). Currently all 31 hospitals, three Emergency Medical Services and nine community health centres in the Free State province are active in the management of adverse events through AIMS. COHSASA currently receives more than 150 reports per month.

Patient safety research seeks to identify areas within healthcare systems that pose high risks to patients and to develop risk reduction remedies.

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On Assignment

Prof Tobias Rinke de Wit (left) arrived in Cape Town in December 2011 from the Netherlands. He is employed by PharmAccess International (PAI) Amsterdam with an assignment to COHSASA as the Director of Research and Business Development of SafeCare.

He will also be overseeing SafeCare projects and...

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