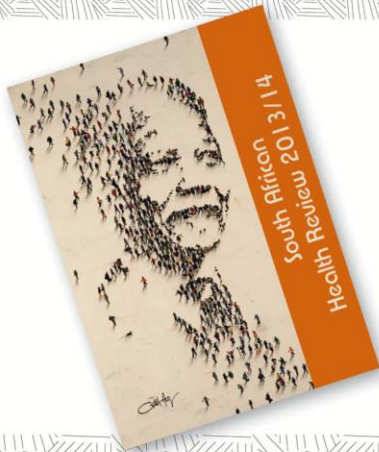




HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST



HEALTH POLICY AND LEGISLATION SAHR KWIK SKWIZ SERIES

This KWIK SKWIZ:



summarises Chapter 1 of the 2013/14 South African Health Review.

- The 2013/14 period has seen only one health-related Act passed by Parliament: the National Health Amendment Act (12 of 2013). This Act was fundamental to the creation of an independent Office of Health Standards Compliance, which is a key building block for the eventual introduction of National Health Insurance.
- A draft International Health Regulations Bill has been published for comment. Parliament has revived the Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Bill (6 of 2014), and public hearings are expected to be arranged soon. This Bill will allow for the operationalisation of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, to replace the Medicines Control Council. The Medical Innovation Bill, introduced as a Private Member's Bill (8 of 2013), has also been revived and is expected to be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health.
- Although the President issued a promulgation notice in March 2014 bringing sections 36 to 40 of the National Health Act (61 of 2003) into operation, it is expected that more consultation on the issue of the certificate of need will occur, even before the necessary Regulations are developed.
- The expected White Paper on National Health Insurance was not published, nor did the National Treasury issue the expected discussion document on NHI financing options.
- The production of secondary legislation continued apace, with draft and final Regulations issued in terms of the National Health Act.
- Secondary and tertiary legislation was also finalised, or issued in draft for comment, by most of the statutory health councils.
- Amended General Regulations were issued in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Act (101 of 1965), which aim to strengthen the regulation of complementary medicines.
- There was considerable interest in the potential health-related implications of the Draft National Policy on Intellectual Property, particularly in relation to access to medicines.
- Although not specific to health, the Protection of Personal Information Act (4 of 2013) will require close attention in relation to practices in all health facilities.

SOURCE:

Gray A, Vawda Y. Health Policy and Legislation. In Padarath A, English R, editors. South African Health Review 2013/14. Durban: Health Systems Trust; 2014.

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<http://www.hst.org.za/publications/south-african-health-review-2013/14>

HST welcomes comments on this publication.

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