

Dear Nhlanhla

Thank you for sharing the article and requesting comment from PRESCO.

To ensure that the correct information is relayed into the public arena I have spoken with Helen Hayes, Western Cape HOPS, as I felt that the Western Cape staffing portrayed was very high. Andy has also shared with us his edits of the article.

I am aware that the figures used in the article are extracted from the District Health Barometer 2022/2023, but these differ to the WC registered public sector pharmacist database on PERSAL. We have checked on PERSAL this morning and the number of pharmacists registered in the WC, including 48 comm serv's (36 plus 12 additional from the human resource conditional grant), is 432. Helen Hayes has been in communication with Andy this morning re these figures. We assume that the figures in the District Health Barometer include the addition of pharmacist assistants.

Please could the Western Cape data therefore be corrected in the article to portray the correct ratios as per the following below:

There are currently 432 registered public sector pharmacists in the Western Cape. The average pharmacist ratio in the Western Cape Province is 7,2 pharmacists per 100 000 uninsured population. The best district in the Western Cape is Central Karoo with 15 pharmacists per 100 000* uninsured population (*based on the SAHR 2023 Indicator chapter).

Should further clarity be required from the WC perspective please let me know or feel free to contact either Helen Hayes or myself. I am sure too that Andy will be able to advise further.

Kind regards

Carrie

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