

Provincial Health Summit
3rd September 2011
Olive Convention Centre

Commission 4
Interactions & Relationships
Between Public & Private Health Sectors
report back

What protocols are needed to facilitate seamless, co-operative and constructive modes of communication between the government and the private sector

Areas identified in current PPI's

1. Human Resources – clinical staff

- Training of Nurse PPI's in specialist programmes e.g. NICU and ICU
- Sessional specialist doctors
- GP network

2. Infrastructure - buildings

- Build Operate and Transfer (BOT)
- Co –locations – leasing of a section of the hospital to the private sector

What protocols are needed to facilitate seamless, co-operative and constructive modes of communication between the government and the private sector

3. Equipment – purchasing of services

- Renal dialysis
- Forensic labs
- IT

4. Non clinical services

- Laundry
- Catering
- Cleaning
- Security

5. Clinical Care – purchasing of services

- NGO's
- Mental Health
- TB

What protocols are needed to facilitate seamless, co-operative and constructive modes of communication between the government and the private sector

- Internal feasibility studies to be conducted before embarking on a PPI
- Legally binding contract agreements, details to be clearly defined in the service level agreements
- Assign a contract Manager for each PPI
- Robust contract management needed
- Review mechanisms, with penalties and termination clauses
- Provincial PPI Forum to be established for more regular interaction with the private sector

PPI's in Health: Welcome relief or headache

Areas of Relief

- Should be a necessary relief
- Latest and expensive technology/ equipment in pvt sector
- Specialist HR needed in public sector, especially rural areas
- Skills transfer (management)
- Decreases red taping
- Reducing waiting periods for surgical procedures
- Non clinical services – risk transfer to private sector
- NGO's – provide good service
- Accessibility – can purchase services in close proximity to public sector hospital
- Regulatory compliance for specialized standards requirement, e.g. Medical Waste Management

PPI's in Health: Welcome Relief or headache

Areas of Headaches

- Exploitation of workers/poor working conditions is a main worry: low salaries, job security
- Should be a convenient headache; with benefits to the public sector
- Risk sharing; tendency to be skewed towards government
- Contracts are not managed effectively
- Contracts are not formally renewed timeously
- Costs – unsustainable/ too expensive
- Lowering of standards towards the end of contract
- Lack of skills development and transfer during the PPI
- Little or no in-house management

PPI's in Health: Welcome relief or headache

Headaches

- Poaching of staff by the pvt sector
- Opens up fraud and corruption opportunities – double billing by doctors; RWOPS; sessional drs not honouring their obligations; redirecting of pts to the private sector.
- Sometimes value for money not obvious

Conclusion

- No carte blanche to the private sector
- Have good contract negotiators
- Have good contract managers
- Have good hospital management: for protocols and MOUs
- Involvement of all stakeholders, including trade unions