



# KwaZulu-Natal Doctors Healthcare Coalition

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## KwaZulu-Natal Doctors' Healthcare Coalition Advises Doctors to Deregister from WhatsApp Doc Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### KwaZulu-Natal Doctors' Healthcare Coalition Advises Doctors to Deregister from WhatsApp Doc Program

Durban, 31 May 2023 - The KwaZulu-Natal Doctors' Healthcare Coalition (KZNDHC), representing doctors across the region, has issued a strong advisory urging doctors to deregister from the controversial WhatsApp Doc program. The advisory comes in response to the recent incident involving Dr. Anton Prinsloo, the founder of WhatsApp Doc, and concerns surrounding touting and supersession within the program.

The KZNDHC, an organization dedicated to upholding the highest standards of medical ethics, professionalism, and patient care, believes that the involvement of doctors in the WhatsApp Doc program compromises the fundamental principles of the medical profession. The interception of blood results ordered by doctors, without patient consent or consultation with their primary physicians, disrupts the doctor-patient relationship and erodes trust in the healthcare system.

Dr. Prinsloo's program promotes touting, which involves the solicitation of patients and the promotion of specific medical practitioners for personal gain. This practice undermines the impartiality and integrity of medical decision-making, ultimately compromising patient care and well-being. Furthermore, supersession, the interference with existing doctor-patient relationships, introduces confusion and potential harm to patients.

In light of these ethical concerns, the KZNDHC strongly advises doctors across the region to immediately deregister from the WhatsApp Doc program. By taking this action, doctors demonstrate

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Dr N. Govender (CEO), Dr DGH Bobat (Financial Director), Dr JD Patel (Company Secretary)  
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their commitment to maintaining patient-centered care, upholding the principles of professionalism, and preserving the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship.

"We believe that patient care and ethical conduct should be the cornerstones of our medical practice," stated Dr Neven Govender, CEO for the KZNDHC. "It is our responsibility as healthcare professionals to prioritize the well-being of our patients and maintain the trust they place in us. Deregistering from the WhatsApp Doc program is an important step in upholding these values and ensuring the integrity of our profession."

The KZNDHC encourages doctors who have concerns or questions about the WhatsApp Doc program or ethical implications to engage in open discussions within their professional networks and seek guidance from their respective medical associations. Together, doctors can work collectively to protect patient interests and uphold the principles that underpin the medical profession.

The KZNDHC remains committed to fostering a healthcare environment that places patient care, professionalism, and ethical conduct at the forefront. As advocates for the medical community, the KZNDHC will continue to monitor developments in this matter and work towards ensuring the highest standards of healthcare delivery for the benefit of all patients.

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