South African Pharmacy Council
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MEDIA RELEASE

4th National Pharmacy Conference to find solutions for health care challenges facing South Africa

The regulator of the pharmacy profession in South Africa, the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), is hosting the 4th National Pharmacy Conference (NPC) from 11 to 13 October 2026 at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre ("Durban ICC") in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

Held under the theme "A Glimpse into the Future: Advancing Pharmacy Towards 2050", the conference is expected to bring together 2 000 pharmacy professionals, healthcare leaders, policymakers, regulators, academics, industry representatives and other stakeholders to explore the future of pharmacy and its contribution to healthcare in South Africa.

The conference will discuss healthcare challenges and opportunities facing South Africa and deliberate on solutions and policy interventions needed. Some of the issues to be discussed includes the following:

- Proper regulation of medicines prone to misuse and abuse, including cannabis, weight management, codeine, and pain management.
- The implementation of universal health coverage (UHC) in South Africa, including the modalities of implementing the National Health Insurance (NHI) as a UHC programme, equitable access to primary health care services, and the pricing policies and reimbursement models for services to be delivered through the NHI.
- Preparedness for public emergencies, immunisation and longevity.
- Digital health care in the age of artificial intelligence (AI); the implementation and governance of technology in the provision of healthcare services.
- Antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial stewardship.

The Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, will officially open the conference on Sunday, 11 October 2026.

The conference will close with the 2026 National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards on the evening of Tuesday, 13 October 2026 wherein the crème-of-the-crop in Pharmacy will be bestowed various honours. Members of

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the media are also invited to express their interest in attending the awards.

For more information, visit www.sapcconference.co.za or follow @OfficialSAPC on social media using #4thNPC.

Issued by the South African Pharmacy Council

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