

SPECIALIST FAMILY PHYSICIANS IN PRIVATE (SFPP)

- Specialist Family Physicians in Private (SFPP) is a forum within the South African Academy of Family Physicians(SAAFP) representing SFP interests in the private sector.
- Our purpose is to clarify the contribution of SFP to the private sector and to advocate for recognition, remuneration and specialist privileges appropriate to this consulting discipline.

When words fall short, pictures speak...



- Our 5-petaled lotus and stem is a symbolic representation of a resilient mind body connection.
- The double helix stem represents all the physical elements of our body.
- The lotus depicts balance of nature's 5 elements, harmony of the 5 human senses and a journey of rising through mud to transform and bloom.
- The lotus with its double helix stem encompasses all the qualities of a Specialist Family Physician who upholds and values the 5 core values of Family Medicine in treating their patients holistically.

The road to reconciliation

SAAFP

National academy representing Family Physicians, both in public and private sector. Historically, there has been minimal advocacy of the discipline within the private sector.

SFPP (2023-2025)

2-year work of collaboration between SAAFP and SASOSFP representatives to merge and form, SFPP, national body representing the interests of Specialist Family Physicians in SA private sector.

Contracted with Healthman consultancy to facilitate our funder negotiations.

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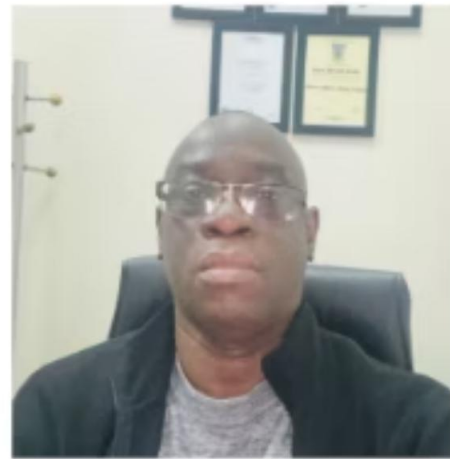
SASOSFP

Breakaway group of Specialist Family Physicians in private created to take on the private sector advocacy but faced numerous challenges from funders

SFPP Leadership team:



Dr Sheena Mathew



Dr Olusola (Shola) Irinoye



Dr Gareth Fray



Dr Gail Ashford



The SFPP journey is a powerful testament to what we can achieve when we set aside past differences, build bridges, and come together around a shared vision for growth and progress.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success." Henry Ford



Challenges experienced



Lack of awareness about SFP

Confusion about GPs versus SFP

Funders ignorance about SFP scope of practice

No mention of SFPs (public or private sector) in the NHI discussions and plans



Administrative challenges

Creating SFP specific tariff and billing codes

Resistance to change existing funder systems to assign SFP specialist status

Funder fear of cost escalations versus cost savings

Exco members time investment out of practice time for weekly meetings, presentations.



Membership recruitment

50 paid SFPP members

200 SFP's claiming from funders in private

Ongoing challenge of locating these SFP's in private who are not part of SAAFP

SFPP advocacy amongst medical aids

	SFP	Physician	GP
Post-graduate fellowship qualification	Yes	Yes	No
Scope of practice	Internal medicine, Paediatrics, O&G, ENT, Surgery, Dermatology, Psychiatry, Orthopaedics, Palliative care, Anaesthetics, Emergency medicine	Internal Medicine	Undergraduate clinical training programme
Consultation skills	Brief motivational interviewing, Bio-psycho-social approach, counselling skills, behaviour change, Stott's consultation model	Unknown	Introduction to consultation skills during undergraduate rotation through Family Medicine department.
Patient population	All ages and genders	Adults only	All ages and genders
Undifferentiated patients	Yes	No	Yes
Consultation length	Extended and comprehensive	Extended, but focused on presenting complaint and affected organ.	Brief and focused to presenting complaint.
Psychotherapy	Yes, structured training in psychotherapy and mental health management.	No	No

SFPP advocacy amongst medical aids

Differentiating SFP, Physician and GP

	SFP	Physician	GP
Skill set	Structured training at post-graduate level internal medicine, <u>paediatrics</u> , <u>anaesthetics</u> , surgery, psychiatry, O&G, palliative care.	Structured training in internal medicine for adults only.	Undergraduate training only.
Continuity of care	Yes, for the whole family with reduced referrals to other specialists.	Limited, only for internal medicine related problems in adults. Need for referral to other specialists for any other co-existing pathologies.	Yes, for the whole family but limited in scope of practice and needing routine up-referrals to subject specialists.
Complex patient management	Yes, routine management of patients with multiple co-morbidities across different disciplines with minimal referrals to other specialists.	Yes, management of adults with multiple co-morbidities within the scope of internal medicine practice.	Yes, routine management with high referral rates to subject specialists.
Out of hospital care	Yes, can practice from outpatient rooms, day clinics, hospital at home, day theatre settings. Reduced hospital admissions, other specialist referrals and casualty visits results in lower healthcare costs.	Mainly hospital-based patient care and critical care management.	Yes, almost exclusively outpatient rooms based.

Success stories



Advocacy

- Publishing of SFPP Position statement, " Contribution of Specialist Family Physicicans to the Private sector of South Africa: A Position Statement".
- Publishing of SFPP Legal statement to support our negotiations amongst funders.



Specialist recognition

- Specialist reimbursement for SFP's on Discovery HAH programme
- Recognition as preferred specialists to manage Mediclinic HAH programme.



Funder interest

- Discovery, Medscheme, Gems, Bestmed keen on engaging with SFPs and testing out reimbursement models through pilot groups

Next steps...



Funders

- Create SFP pilot groups within different funders to assess cost effectiveness and outcomes of specialist-based care for different patient categories.
- Continue our negotiations for specialist privileges like advanced imaging, specialist formulary access.

Marketing strategy

- Improve our brand awareness amongst the public, funders and government.
- Enlist the services of a marketing/social media company to assist with this.

Membership

- Have a membership base that is truly representative of majority of SFP's in the private sector (200 SFP's claiming from medical aids)

Acknowledging our supporters

- SAAFP leadership (Prof Bob Mash, Prof Andrew Ross, Prof Tasleem Ras)
- Prof Shadrick Mazaza
- Healthman team (Mardi, Peet, Lilly, Casper)
- SAAFP administrator Lucille
- SAAFP Exco
- SFPP members

