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The Times, Monday July 06, 2009- **More swine flu coming our way**

The number of swine flu cases in SA is likely to increase in coming weeks – but experts say there is no need to panic. By yesterday, 14 confirmed cases of infection by the swine flu strain of the H1N1 virus had been reported by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

- **Reinstated strike doctors could lose their licences**

Although 400 KwaZulu-Natal doctors, fired for taking part in a two-week wildcat strike, have been reinstated, 76 of them might still lose their licences to practice medicine. The Health Professions Council of SA said it would continue its investigation of their conduct.

- **New insights into Africa health failings**

Wits University School of Public Health is on a drive to build a multi-million rand research centre to better understand and solve Africa's many health problems. Professor Sharon Fonn, said the Centre will bring together 10 university's research facilities and findings from countries like Malawi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The Star, Monday July 06, 2009**- Government hospitals are battling to keep skilled radiographers**

South African hospitals are chronically short of radiographers of radiographers and clinical technologists, according to the Health Professions Council of SA. The reasons are poor pay and the lure of private practice.

- Cape doctors test wage acceptability by ballot

Western Cape public healthcare doctors and other medical practitioners were today due to start participation in a national secret ballot to establish whether the Health Department's wage offer to doctors at public hospitals is acceptable.

- Good news for accident victims

Down but not out, the Road Accident Fund (RAF) is ready to start the battle again to pay accident victims directly. They lost the court battle in 2007 when the judge found RAF to be procedurally flawed in that the public was not consulted widely enough.

Business Day, Tuesday July 07, 2009**- Healthcare still a weak point for SA**

The burden of poverty on poor households has been reduced, but there are still gaps and quality concerns in a number of crucial areas in the public health sector, according to the District Health Barometer released yesterday. The barometer indicates that there is still a degree of uncertainty in areas such as HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and infant mortality rates, particularly at a district and sub-district level.

The Times, Tuesday July 07, 2009**- Swine flu hits students**

It's official, SA is experiencing an outbreak of swine flu. The national tally of people infected with the swine flu strain of the H1N1 virus rose to 30 yesterday afternoon when 16 students were diagnosed as having contracted the disease.

- Doctors up in arms again

Doctors will strike again unless government "immediately" draws up a long-awaited agreement allowing them to protest their salaries and working conditions.

The Star, Wednesday July 08, 2009**- Wonder jab controls diabetes and weight**

Experts say that the once-a-day injection called Victoza, controls symptoms of diabetes and helps fight obesity. It could help prevent thousands of type 2 diabetes sufferers having to take insulin – which can cause weight gain.

The Star, Thursday July 09, 2009**- Now 47 swine flu cases in SA, but no danger**

The increase in the number of swine cases to 47 was not a cause for panic, as all those identified and tested showed only mild symptoms of the influenza.

The Business Day, Thursday July 09, 2009**- Nursing colleges still awaiting accreditation**

The Democratic Alliance has asked the Minister of Health to set up an inquiry as to why it has taken "four years and counting" to develop a nursing college accreditation policy, in the face of 42 000 vacant positions for nurses in the public sector and 18 000 projected for the private sector by 2011. However, there is an end in sight, hopefully by the end of this year. The private sector had trained 6 500 nurses, or 50% of all new nurses.

Mail & Guardian, July 10 to 16 2009**- Healthcare in reverse**

South Africa is failing on the most basic international measures of poverty and healthcare, especially regarding infant and maternal mortality. Speaking this week at the release of this year's District Health Barometer, the annual report produced by research and advocacy NGO the Health Systems Trust, Dr Molefi Sefularo, the deputy health minister, said SA is moving backwards on the United Nations Millennium Developmental Goals and preventative healthcare.

Financial Mail, July 10, 2009**- Universal care costs – by Kurt Worrall-Clare CEO of the Hospital Association of SA**

Much has been made of national health insurance (NHI) in the current healthcare debate, though little is known about the specific details. A policy document may be made available for comment in a few months and we look forward to participating in this debate. The success of any system depends on empirical testing and vigorous debate and it is imperative that the public engage in this process of consultation. The challenge of national health insurance is to find the right balance between the vision of universal cover and affordability.

- Bankmed - Tenderised

Bankmed has put on ice its search for a new administrator since its principal officer, Milton Streak, left to join Discovery. This means Metropolitan remains in charge of Bankmed's R225m/year administration and managed care business. Bankmed covers 100 000 people in the financial services sector.

Saturday Star, July 11 2009

- Swine flu sickens 54, but don't panic

There are now 54 confirmed cases of swine flu in South Africa. Although the number of cases of swine flu in South Africa is increasing, Lucille Blumberg of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases said there was no need for concern. The Health Department said once a total of 100 confirmed cases have been found in South Africa, health authorities will stop the individual laboratory confirmation of cases as it will no longer be essential for monitoring either the level or the nature of the risk posed by the pandemic virus or to guide the most appropriate response measures.

- Doctors relieved as hospitals reopen doors

Intern doctors at Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital let out a sigh of relief after public hospitals in Joburg reopened their doors to the public this week. Staff at Bara have said the hospital is seriously understaffed, especially at intern level, and for the past three weeks had been attending to more than 80 patients a day.

- Medical scheme under fire

An investigation has been ordered into Bonitas Medical Fund, as well as into the Fund's administrator Medscheme, after Bonitas allegedly used R80m of member's money to for an incomplete property development and other investments. It will also look into whether Medscheme is fit to hold its licence.

Sunday Times, July 12 2009

- 'Health system needs doctoring'

Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi has openly admitted that 'not much has been done to address SA's crumbling health system in the past 15 years'. Norms and standards were not set in this sector. In a bold plan to overhaul the healthcare system, which has already been approved by parliament, includes management improvement; provision of strategic leadership; finalization of the NHI plan; improve the quality of services; improve human resources planning, development and management; revitalization of infrastructure and review of its funding; accelerated implementation of the HIV/Aids plan and increased focus on TB and other communicable diseases; intensifying health promotion programmes; reviewing drug policy and draft plans for the establishment of a state-owned drug manufacturing company; and strengthening of research and development.

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