ATTENTION HMI PANEL

BIOKINETICS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (BASA) SUBMISSION: HMI SEMINARS

Dear Sirs/ Mesdames,

Introduction

BASA is appreciative of the opportunity to submit comments in response to the presentations and engagement at the HMI Seminars held in Pretoria on 9, 10 and 12 April 2019.

As per the Notice received, the purpose of this submission is to highlight key issues where common ground appears to have been established as well as areas where there are apparent critical differences in relation to the HMI findings and recommendations as debated during the course of the Seminar. The submission takes the form of succinct comments which have relevance from the perspective of BASA, for consideration by the HMI Panel.

Practitioners Conspicuous by their Absence at the Seminar

It was brought to the attention of the Seminar that practitioners were not present at the Seminar. This is not strictly true as practitioners were represented by a number of professional associations including BASA.

Funder/Practitioner Relationships

Whilst emphasis was placed on challenges facing funders as well as the value of Designated Service Providers (DSP’s), the imbalance of power pertaining to the relationships between funders and practitioners (biokineticists) needs to be highlighted.

Benefit design and related tariffs are dictated by funders and the practitioners are forced to comply. In essence, the provider often assumes a subservient role in the funder/practitioner relationship.

Sustainability of practices remains a key issue and thus BASA is supportive of the introduction of a Regulator to facilitate tariff negotiations as proposed by the HMI in the Provisional Report.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse.

It is with great regret that BASA acknowledges an incidence of fraud, wastage and abuse within the private health care system. It is the view of BASA that the majority of practitioners are law-abiding and that the minority of practitioners are responsible for such conduct.
BASA vehemently opposes any form of fraud, waste and abuse. To this end, BASA embraces a code of professional and clinical conduct.

**Inability of Funders to Discipline Providers**

The allegation that funders are unable to discipline providers is not true as evidenced by the actions of forensic units of funders, primarily within the managed healthcare setting.

Justifiable or not, providers of care find themselves pressurised by funders to sign acknowledgements of debt and/or face punitive measures which include the withholding of payment for claims received, direct payment withdrawn, amongst other interventions.

**Quality Outcomes and Measurement**

It is noted that there are no standards of how to measure and compute quality. The Regulator, as proposed, should assume responsibility to oversee the development of a comprehensive quality methodology to improve the framework.

In principle, there is a need to standardise measurements of quality across the industry and to standardise agreements with Funders and DSPs.

**The State of the Private Sector**

It was concerning to note that the practitioners are being held accountable for the state of the private sector and should be disciplined. This is insulting with practitioners being relegated to the status of ‘naughty school children’.

Biokineticists are trained professionals and are amongst the best in the world, as are other SA healthcare providers.

**Private Sector/Public Sector Partnerships (PPP’s)**

BASA supports the principle of PPP’s where deemed necessary to facilitate accessible, affordable and quality care to all communities.

**Tariff Determination Process**

BASA is in favour of the introduction of a Supply Regulator to ensure fee negotiations, ideally between the professions and funders/DSP’s in a fair manner and on an equitable basis. The professional associations are best placed to assume responsibility of the role of negotiator on behalf of the professions.
CONCLUSION

BASA, once again, thanks the HMI for the opportunity to participate in the HMI process and trusts that the challenges facing health care practitioner in the private sector are noted and considered.

Yours Sincerely,

Aretha Potgieter

BASA PRESIDENT