



29 September 2017

Dear Doctor

Netcare's clinical department is excited to announce a formal collaboration with the South African Heart Association (SA Heart) and the South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention (SASCI), amongst others, with the aim of collectively contributing to improving the care of patients who have suffered ST-segment elevation myocardial infarctions (STEMIs).

SA Heart has embarked on an educational project with multiple aims including the following:

- Improving the quality of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) care.
- Improving the network of care, giving more patients access to reperfusion therapy.
- Decreasing AMI mortality.

This project is to be informed by a study in which SA Heart aims to investigate whether primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or thrombolysis is performed in a timely and appropriate manner, as well as to identify barriers to effective STEMI management. Building up a database on mortality and morbidity statistics as well as informing focused clinical improvement work are the primary outcomes of the study. Data collection will be performed over a period of at least five years, and is set to constitute the STEMI SA Registry.

The study will be conducted as a cross-sectional observational study by cardiologists from public and private hospitals across different regions of South Africa. Informed consent to participate will be sought from each patient and all data will be anonymised. Netcare's current acute chest pain record book, which is well-entrenched in documenting the care of cardiac patients in our emergency department, has been updated to reflect the additional parameters that are required by this study.

In addition to the contributing to the important SA Heart research, our chest pain record book has received endorsement from SA Heart, SASCI, and the South African Resuscitation Council; a wonderful achievement for Netcare and a testament to the excellent work our emergency department personnel have already done in this field. Medibank is in the process of being updated to reflect the changes resulting from the formal collaboration, ensuring that we will have the most meaningful data at our disposal.

We are excited to be participating in this collaborative research and look forward to contributing to the advancement of healthcare in South Africa related to this very important condition.

We also note with keen interest the 18th annual SA Heart Congress scheduled to take place from 9 to 12 November 2017 in Sandton. To mark the 50th anniversary of the first heart transplant, this congress is expected to attract the brightest minds in cardiology and cardiac technology. With a strong emphasis on innovation, as reflected in the theme, 'Fundamentals to Innovation', it is sure to encourage collaboration and support the continued embrace of technology in the ever-changing field of clinical medicine.

Kind regards,



Dr A Laubscher
Medical Director



Dr B Mentoor
Clinical Improvement Lead

