



SASCI

South African Society of
Cardiovascular Intervention

SA Heart, SASCI and CASSA SUBMISSION:
DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION: 25 APRIL 2020

Per email to: lockdowncomments@cogta.gov.za

SA Heart Association and its Special Interest Groups SASCI (South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention) and CASSA (Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa) is an organisation of physicians, scientists and allied professionals with the purpose to advance the development of cardiology and coronary revascularisation and to provide minimally invasive, image-guided diagnosis and treatment of cardiac medical conditions.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in South Africa after HIV/AIDS. More South Africans die of CVD than of all the cancers combined. CVD is responsible for almost 1 in 6 deaths (17.3%) in South Africa. **Approximately 215 people die every day from heart disease or strokes.** Every hour in South Africa, 5 people have heart attacks, 10 people have strokes and of those events, 10 people will die from it.

In light of the above, SASCI would like alert COGTA that many patients are cancelling follow-up appointments or not seeking medical attention in the first place. There are certain conditions where face-to-face visits are still required, and patients should not miss a visit without first consulting their healthcare providers. An emphasis should be made that, even during the pandemic, the public should not delay in seeking healthcare services. Every minute counts in cardiology. Hospitals and cardiologists are doing their utmost to treat patients in a safe environment.

SASCI appreciates the opportunity from COGTA to comment on Risk Adjusted Strategy and is available to provide any technical and professional support if called upon to do so. The comments herein are limited to P1.1 "Medical and veterinary services", R13 and R14 "Curfews".

Clause (number)	Comments
All levels: "P1: 1. Medical and veterinary services permitted"	"Medical" and "medical practitioners" as defined in regulation A to include rendering of health care services not only life-saving measures.

SASCI is a Special Interest Group within SA Heart Association

H Weich (President), D Kettles (Ex-officio President), S Khan (Vice-President), C Badenhorst (Treasurer), G Cassel (Secretary), M Ntsekhe C Zambakides, J Vorster, G Angel, JP Theron, M Makotoko, A Vachiat, S Pandie, J Hitzeroth, F Dube, W Howell (ISCAP)

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Regulation 11A	<p>The definition of “essential service” must be amended to apply to all healthcare services provided by Cardiologists.</p> <p>For health care, a definition must be included that covers health-seeking and all health services required by patients on the assessment of a healthcare professional:</p> <p>“health-seeking’ means the activity of a patient or prospective patient who are concerned about his/her health and ‘seeking healthcare’ has a corresponding meaning”</p> <p>“health services’ means the activity of a health care professional assessing a patient and commencing treatment and care as may be required by the patient, subject to professional rules and guidance”</p>
Regulation 11B(1)(a)	<p>(i) every person is confined to his or her place of residence, unless strictly for the purpose of performing an essential service, obtaining an essential good or service, collecting a social grant, pension or <u>seeking healthcare</u> [emergency, life-saving, or chronic medical attention]</p>
Level 5: “R13. Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am, unless for essential service workers returning from or going to work”	<p>Amend as follows:</p> <p>Level 5: R13. Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am, unless for essential service workers returning from or going to work, <u>and healthcare professionals for purposes of rendering healthcare and for the public seeking healthcare as permitted.</u></p>

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Level 4 & 3: R14. Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am Level R13: 13. Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am	Levels 4 to 2: “Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am, <u>save for where health care services permitted are to be rendered by healthcare professionals and sought by members of the public.</u> ”
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Representatives:

Dr David Jankelow	Dr Hellmuth Weich	Dr Andrew Thornton	George Nel
SA Heart President	SASCI President	CASSA Past President	SASCI Executive Officer

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