



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

COHSASA will be collaborating with the National Department of Health in South Africa, the University of the Witwatersrand and others to assist with the development of a national infection control policy that will determine performance standards to be achieved, investigate outbreaks, implement prevention and control measures and monitor and improve rates of infections in hospitals.

Said Professor Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA, "Infection control has been one of the more challenging services within the our programme. COHSASA was asked to report its findings in infection control to the National Department of Health.

COHSASA will be working closely with the National Department of Health and with Professor Adriano Duse, Chief Specialist and Academic Head: Division of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the NHLS & Wits School of Pathology, to determine whether there is a correlation between increased levels of standards compliance and rates of hospital-acquired (so-called nosocomial) infections in South African healthcare facilities.

The data will be collected from high-risk sites such as urinary tract, lower respiratory tract, bloodstream and surgical site infections.

The focus on infection control was brought centre stage when 22 babies died in the Mahatma Gandhi hospital in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of the country in June/July.

For further information:

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