



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY<sup>®</sup>  
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT  
INSTITUTIONAL OFFICE

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<b>Related documentation</b>	Primary Health Care procedure

# Primary Health Care Policy

## 1 Preamble

As a pre-eminent university in Africa, driven by the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, with a unique institutional culture based upon the values the University espouses, the North-West University has adopted this Primary Health Care Policy on 20 June 2014 to regulate and provide equitable primary health care services to all students, staff, visitors and contract workers who are not members of a medical aid scheme – as and when required.

## 2 Goal

To provide a policy and standards according to which Basic Primary Health Care Services across all the business units / campuses will run.

## 3 Institutional Policy Objectives

- 3.1 Effective leadership, equity, clarity and directives at all business units of the NWU.
- 3.2 Facilitating basic physical health at all business units of the NWU.
- 3.3 Contributing to coordinated, comprehensive and integrated response to PHC needs.

## 4 Scope of Application

This policy is applicable to members of staff, students, visitors and contract workers of the University who are not members of a medical aid scheme.

## 5 Definition

As defined by the National Department of Health, Primary Health Care Services include the following;

- 5.1 Assessments, diagnosis and treatment of minor ailments according to the Essential Drug List (EDL).
- 5.2 Reproductive health, including contraceptives and emergency contraceptives (morning-after treatment), antenatal care, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), breast and cervical examinations, termination of pregnancy referrals, male and female condom issuing and distribution.
- 5.3 TB screening and/or management of TB.
- 5.4 Medical emergencies, including post-exposure prophylactic treatment.
- 5.5 Disease outbreaks and immunisation programmes.
- 5.6 HIV management, including VCT, prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), excluding ARVs.
- 5.7 Chronic disease management (hypertension, diabetes, asthma, epilepsy).
- 5.8 Health promotion, awareness and screening campaigns – in accordance with the National Health & the NWU Health & Wellness Calendar (substance abuse, TB, HIV & AIDS, STIs, anti-smoking, etc.).
- 5.9 Referrals to other health and social services as required.
- 5.10 Applicable services and support are provided during Student Orientation.
- 5.11 Appropriate support services during disaster emergency situations.

## 6 Guiding Principles

- 6.1 The services provided by the Primary Health Care Centres on each campus are governed by local, Provincial and National Department of Health policies, protocols and procedures as the campus clinics are accredited by the Department of Health as Primary Health Care Sites.
- 6.2 Primary health care at the North West University is offered to NWU employees and students, through on-campus outpatient clinics, offering convenient quality health care for minor illnesses at a minimum cost per visit.

- 6.3 Patients on medical aid schemes may be served for routine chronic condition control purposes, excluding the chronic medication, and depending on the availability of qualified staff.
- 6.4 Confidentiality of information is a priority.
- 6.5 Professional and ethical behaviour by participating registered professionals.
- 6.6 Fair, equitable and dignified treatment of all clients.
- 6.7 A primary approach to health care, where prevention is the cornerstone, will be advocated.

## **7 Governance, management roles and accountabilities**

- 7.1 Council is responsible for approval of the policy and monitoring its implementation.
- 7.2 Institutional Management and the Vice-Chancellor, as Chief Executive Officer, are responsible for the coordination, implementation and realisation of this policy across the Institution in terms of the necessary process systems, procedures and resources.
- 7.3 The Vice-Chancellor, Rectors and Campus Management are responsible to ensure availability of resources, implementation and monitoring on their respective campuses.
- 7.4 Clinics and PHC management are responsible for the day-to-day running of the clinic services and ensuring that services are provided according to the norms and standards as set by the Department of Health.
- 7.5 The Institutional Health & Wellness Coordinating Committee, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director: Human Capital, is responsible to ensure an integrated & coordinated approach to PHC.
- 7.6 Institutional Corporate Affairs and Relations and Employee Wellness will assist with the communication of PHC information across all NWU business units, while Campus Communications units will be responsible for communication on specific campuses.
- 7.7 The Employee Wellness Unit and staff are responsible for the coordination of awareness projects which are run in conjunction with PHC center management across the business units and their support teams at the business units.
- 7.8 Employees, students, contract workers and visitors without medical aid membership are responsible for their active participation in the services offered by the PHC centers and for complying with recommendations given by the medical staff.

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