



## COVID-19 pandemic - a year later ....

There is no doubt that the past year has been challenging. It is also unquestionable that Platinum Health has stood steadfast in protecting members and providing appropriate healthcare during turbulent times. Let's take a look.....

### COVID-19 TESTS

To date 19 737 patients have been tested for COVID-19 .

- On 21 March 2020 the first Platinum Health (PH) beneficiary tested positive for COVID-19.
- Since then, a total of **8 446** beneficiaries have tested positive for COVID-19 (*this is 9.3% of the total PH beneficiaries compared to the South African infection rate of 2.5%*).
- The PH COVID-19 infection rate is 372% higher than the national averages and therefore it is imperative that members continue to adhere to COVID-19 avoidance measures.

### DO YOUR PART BY COMPLYING TO COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES:

- Sanitise and wash hands regularly.
- Wear a mask at all times while in public.
- Social distancing of at least 1.5 – 2 metres.
- Avoid attending any social gatherings as far as possible

### WE LOST LOVED ONES

Regretfully 80 members have died during the past year, of which 75 were as a direct result of COVID-19, (0.078% members died as a result of COVID-19, compared to the SA COVID-19 death rate of 0.085%).

The Platinum Health COVID-19 death rate is 8% below the SA COVID-19 death rate despite the COVID-19 infection rate being 372% higher than the COVID-19 infection rate.

This can be attributed to:

- The high number of HIV+ patients who are on ART and being viral load suppressed
- The high number of patients with other comorbidities such as Hypertension, Diabetes, TB and Asthma being on chronic medicine.
- Patients with comorbidities complying with Platinum Health's request that they ensure they drink medicine daily.
- Platinum Health's cautious approach of having patients admitted timeously before complications set in.

*Platinum Health wants to thank all the members who diligently remain on treatment and take their chronic medication as prescribed.*

### HOWEVER, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT ALL MEMBERS REMAIN COMPLIANT AND DO THEIR PART:

- HIV+ patients not yet on ART are urged to visit doctors to ensure they start treatment before a third wave starts.
- Patients with HIV, Hypertension, diabetes, TB and Asthma who are on treatment should ensure they continue drinking medicine daily as prescribed.
- All Platinum Health adult beneficiaries should ensure they are vaccinated as soon as vaccines are available.

**The life of every Platinum Health member is precious.**

**Platinum Health will spare no costs to provide appropriate healthcare to all our members.**

### TO DATE, THE COVID-19 RELATED COSTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Specialist Costs R 41 million
- Pharmacy Costs R 6 million
- PPE Costs R 9 million
- Hospital Costs R 52 million
- TOTAL COVID-19 COSTS R108 million
  - To date 745 members with COVID-19 have been admitted to hospital .  
The average hospital cost per admission = R69 169