

Media Statement, issued 25 March 2020

Practice of Aesthetic Medicine in South Africa during the COVID-19 Lockdown

Dear AAMSSA Members & Colleagues in Aesthetic Medicine

All elective, non-urgent and non-emergent services to cease during the lockdown period.

In the current unprecedented COVID-19 environment it is vitally important for AAMSSA members, and all Aesthetic Practitioners in South Africa, to act responsibly, ethically and wisely.

AAMSSA is a SAMA affiliated society and SAMA strongly recommends that all doctors provide only urgent or emergent care. Aesthetic Medicine is not an essential or emergency service.

The executive committee of AAMSSA unanimously agrees that all non-essential cosmetic, aesthetic and somatology procedures cease completely during the lock down period from midnight 26 March 2020 for 21 days.

It is our ethical duty to “first do no harm”. Each of us has a societal responsibility to not function as a vector of a potentially fatal disease. Aesthetic doctors cannot ethically play any part in encouraging patients to break the president’s lockdown rule for aesthetic procedures.

In respect of President Ramaphosa’s lockdown rule no Aesthetic Practitioner should offer home visits for aesthetic procedures at this time. No AAMSSA member should abuse their position as a doctor to sneak in aesthetic procedures under the guise of “GP practice”.

For those practices that remain open in order to provide GP or Integrative Medical services the same SAMA rules apply: only urgent and emergency care is advised for office based consultation and procedures. GP’s must abide by the regulations provided by the Department of Health, NICD, SAMA, and the HPCSA during the pandemic. This includes correct screening procedures, disinfection, and use of personal protective equipment, testing, disinfection and waste disposal.

Practitioners have options such as telemedicine and virtual consultations to reassure and assist patients during this anxious time. This will lift some of the burden off the health care system.

For those of you and your loved ones who are called to help on the frontline, we wish you courage, strength and protection.

Thank you for your continued trust in AAMSSA. We will strive to keep you updated on appropriate Aesthetic Medicine practice as the pandemic progresses. We wish you and your families’ health, calmness and safety in the extraordinary times ahead.

Kind regards



Dr Debbie Norval
President AAMSSA