

## Media Statement, issued 14 April 2020

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

Dear AAMSSA members and Colleagues in Aesthetic Medicine,

#### Extension of Covid-19 lockdown: Implications for Aesthetic Medicine

As you are aware, President Cyril Ramaphosa has extended the Covid-19 lockdown to 1 May 2020.

This places much pressure on small businesses like Aesthetic Medicine which by nature is a non-essential medical service. AAMSSA is a SAMA affiliated society and we support their directive that all elective, non-urgent and non-emergent services are to cease during the lockdown period.

**The directive of HPCSA and SAMA still applies to the extended lockdown period. No aesthetic medical procedures may be performed.** This applies also to nurses working in aesthetics, beauty therapists and somatologists. Unless a serious complication is being managed, no cosmetic skin and body treatments are essential or urgent.

I would like to thank all our members who have made the sacrifice to stop practicing Aesthetic Medicine during this time. You are playing an important role in reducing the spread of the virus and flattening the curve. Aesthetic Medicine is a part of the broader medical community and the collective decisions we make today will have an important impact and save lives. By taking the above proactive measures we spread a message to our communities about the seriousness of the crisis.

The practice of telemedicine and virtual consultations in Aesthetic Medicine is permissible during the pandemic, as long as patients clearly understand that the treatments will only take place after lockdown. As experienced doctors we have the option of offering essential GP work to take the load off the health care system and some of you have offered your services on the frontline.

Alexandre Dumas once said "All human wisdom is summed up in two words: wait and hope"

As we wait for this pandemic to pass, we hope for our leaders to manage the crisis well, for our medical personnel on the frontlines for safety and strength, and for our loved ones to stay well.

We wait and hope for the time, not too far in the future, when our discipline will once again thrive and flourish.

Kind regards



Dr Debbie Norval  
President AAMSSA