

Survival

Hi Lorraine

Is it government's idea to close down all independent pharmacies so that we can all go and work for them in the new NHI system? The only reason many independent pharmacies are still there is because of marketing fees or whatever they're called. Without those fees, my pharmacy's gross profit has dropped to under 20% now and we will have to seriously consider other options if they continue with this witch hunt.

We started so many years ago on the ridiculous 26/26 system, which has now grown to 31 with some medical aids, then one scheme took it back to 25 this year. Why was a pricing system published that no medical aid adheres to? Although our turnovers are growing, our margins are shrinking and we are working harder and harder for less and less.

It is time that the Pharmacy Council and our Society stand up for pharmacists and independent pharmacies otherwise the already messed up health system will go to pieces.

How can any business have a sale for R54000.00 and make R32.00 income, which barely covers the costs incurred? We still do free deliveries, run accounts and work after hours for the public. None of the corporate pharmacies do this. Just my deliveries cost more than R10,000.00 per month. I can go on like this forever but it will just make us all more depressed.

Taking these fees away will not make medicine cheaper, it will only make manufacturers wealthier and they will kill the retail industry. We've tried to stay positive for so long but it feels as though someone is really doing their best to close us down.

On a very negative new year start

Regards

Anonymous

(Author is known to the editor)