

Compiled by the Day Hospital Association of South Africa (DHA) - August 2020

The benefits of surgery in a day hospital...

1	<p>Alternative settings for day procedures - allowing patients and surgeons to choose - Day hospitals offer an alternative setting to having short stay/day surgical procedures in acute facilities, thereby creating peace of mind for both patients and doctors, even more so under the current pandemic conditions. <i>Reference - DHA/IAAS/ASCA/BECKER'S ASC REVIEWS</i></p>
2	<p>Low risk of infection - With reference to the Department of Health's National Infection Prevention and Control Strategic Framework published on 27 March 2020 – private hospitals showed advanced level scores in the infection prevention and control assessment framework (IPCAF). In addition to this the occurrence of hospital borne (nosocomial) infections are virtually zero in day hospitals. <i>Reference - DHA/DOH</i></p>
3	<p>Less risk and less exposure to infection - Day hospitals function in well controlled, smaller environments, easy to manage and able to adapt fast to demands and changes required by users of the facility or the healthcare system. <i>DHA/IAAS/ASCA/BECKER'S ASC REVIEWS</i></p>
4	<p>Scope - The current scope of day hospital offerings, through continuous medical and technological advances, can be expanded on in the future. <i>DHA/IAAS</i></p>
5	<p>Day hospitals offer a more intimate patient setting and journey - 1. Pre-admission and admission at hospital reception on day of procedure. 2. Patient gets collected from reception by ward nursing staff. 3. Ward nursing staff hands over the patient directly to the theatre/recovery nursing team. 4. The same wards staff collects the patient from the theatre/recovery nursing team. 5. From the ward the patient get discharged with a last stop at reception. This translates into - a. Time efficiency in processes and total length of hospital stay for day procedures. b. Smaller teams dedicated to caring for patients helping create less stressful hospital experiences for patients. <i>DHA</i></p>
6	<p>Affordability - South Africa like most other countries are struggling to control the cost of healthcare to realise its vision of access to affordable quality care for more of its citizens. The ability to treat more surgical patients through less beds means the cost effectiveness of day case surgery has put this mode of care at the top of political agendas. <i>DHA/IAAS/ASCA</i></p>
7	<p>International trend 1 - The "new normal" international trend shows an increase in cases in outpatient setting due to safer settings and affordability. Acute facilities will be dealing with the current pandemic well into the future. <i>IAAS/ASCA/Becker's ASC Reviews</i></p>
8	<p>International trend 2 - International trends also show patients preferring day hospitals. Patients are more informed and concerned about infection control practices in larger or acute hospitals. <i>ASCA/Becker's ASC Review</i></p>
9	<p>International trend 3 - In the USA, CMS now allow ambulatory surgery centres to contract with local health systems to provide hospital services or to bill as hospitals during the emergency declaration. <i>ASCA</i></p>
10	<p>Innovation & Disruption - <i>Quoting Dr Klasko in Becker's ACS review about the future of healthcare delivery - "This is healthcare's Amazon moment," he said. "If you are a provider and think you're going to go back to your business model solely being based on hospital revenue and not relevant to people who want care at home, I think you will be out of business. If you're an insurer and think you can just be the middle man between the hospital and the patient, you'll be irrelevant. If hospitals believe that innovation can be just this cute little thing that they do in the background but the real business is just getting heads in beds, they're nuts. I think we were always wondering what the big disruption would be that got us to join the consumer revolution, and I think this is it."</i> Day hospital patients get to recuperate in the comfort of their own homes. Under the current pandemic the use of remote monitoring technology not just for COVID-19 patients but also other medical conditions are on the forefront of discussions and trends. Why not for short stay/day surgery procedures as well irrespective of the pandemic? <i>BHF/DHA</i></p>
11	<p>Growing backlog - Adherence by healthcare providers to previous guidance to postpone elective cases has created an enormous pent-up demand for surgery that must be addressed as soon as possible. Again day hospitals offer another pathway for healthcare providers to provide care to more patients. <i>ASCA/DHA</i></p>
12	<p>Irrespective of normal or new normal - <i>"Day hospitals, only hosting surgical patients, offer an ideal environment for appropriately selected patients and procedures. Being a smaller facility patients have limited contact due to smaller staff contingents without shift changes, fewer other patients and accumulatively shorter patients stays. With careful planning day surgery is the ideal for selected cases limiting both exposure and unnecessary in patient stays."</i> <i>DHA</i></p>
13	<p>Doctor feedback: Plastic/Cosmetic Surgeon - <i>"Day hospitals are safe zones during the current pandemic. All patients are screened for infection before admission and wards have sufficient space for adequate social distancing. At a time where the large acute care facilities are battling the Corona pandemic, I strongly advise patients to have their short stay surgery at day hospitals."</i></p>
14	<p>Doctor feedback: Orthopaedic Surgeon - <i>"I believe during the current pandemic day hospitals surgery offer the advantage of surgery in a hospital with no in patient Covid-19 patients. This environment and strict screening protocols reduces the risk of patients contracting Covid-19 whilst in hospital."</i></p>
15	<p>Doctor feedback: Neurosurgeon - <i>"In these uncertain times it is our responsibility to take the utmost care with our patients' safety. The advantages of day care procedures appear significant in reducing the risk of Covid 19 infection compared to admission in acute care hospitals. Pain procedures for back, neck and headaches can be performed in day hospitals."</i></p>

REFERENCES -	Organisation
1	Day Hospital Association of South Africa - DHA
2	The Department of Health - DOH
3	The International Association for Ambulatory Surgery - IAAS - European Day Hospitals / Day Surgery Centres
4	Ambulatory Surgery Centre Association - ASCA - American Day Hospitals / Day Surgery Centres
5	BECKER'S ASC REVIEWS - Publications on Day Hospitals / Day Surgery Centres in America

Important to note -	Day Hospitals in South Africa are -
a	Modern health care facilities which focus on the provision of short stay surgical and diagnostic procedures which are performed in an operating theatre on a same-day basis. The patient is therefore admitted in the morning and discharged on the same day.
b	Registered with the South African Department of Health (under R158), with current annual license to treat patients.
c	Registered at the Board of Healthcare Funders with a practice code 77.
d	Members of the National Hospital Network.
e	Day Hospitals are also referred to as – * day clinics * same-day surgical centres * day surgery units * unattached operating theatres * ambulatory surgical centres (as referred to in Europe / USA / Australia) * day theatres * day procedure surgical centres