

Strengthening Health Data Management in the NMB and Sarah Baartman Districts



Information Officer at the Eastern Cape Department of Health, Ms Nolubabalo Mthwana speaking about the requirements for accurate data elements and recording

By Olwethu Hlana-Mva

GQEBERHA, Eastern Cape –

Reliable health information plays an important role in ensuring that health services respond to the needs of communities. With this in mind, the Eastern Cape Department of Health hosted a five-day Data Management Workshop in Gqeberha to strengthen the way health information is captured, managed and used.

The workshop brought together health information management officials, data capturers, supervisors and programme managers from the Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman districts. The sessions provided an opportunity for officials to refresh their knowledge, share experiences and strengthen their understanding of the systems used to manage health information.

Key areas covered during the workshop included data quality, the Annual Improvement Plan (AIP), the District Health Management Information System (DHMIS), information security and various health information platforms.

Officials also discussed the importance of maintaining accurate patient records, with a strong focus on the principle of “One Patient, One Folder, One Folder Number.” The discussions highlighted how accurate information supports planning, monitoring and decision-making, while also helping identify areas where services can be improved.

The workshop also focused on HIV and TB data management and reporting. Officials engaged on systems such as TIER.Net and discussed important indicators, including viral load suppression, TB screening and tuberculosis preventive treatment.

Throughout the workshop, one message remained clear: data should not simply be captured and stored — it must be used to make a difference. Officials were encouraged to ensure that information is accurately captured, validated and analysed so that it can inform decisions and ultimately contribute to better health service delivery.

On the final day, participants worked in groups to develop and present practical actions that they plan to implement in their respective districts.

The presentations provided an opportunity for officials to reflect on what they had learned and consider how the lessons from the workshop could be applied at facility and district level.

The workshop concluded on a positive note, with participants reaffirming their commitment to improving data management practices and ensuring that reliable health information continues to support better planning, decision-making and service delivery across the NMB and Sarah Bartman districts.



Mrs Linda Mdingi-Buqa presenting the Data Reconciliation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), highlighting the importance of strengthening data verification and reconciliation processes