FACTORS INFLUENCING CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN PRIVATE HEALTH CARE SECTORS IN SOSHANGUVE

by

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submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

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DECLARATION

I declare that FACTORS INFLUENCING CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN PRIVATE HEALTH CARE SECTORS IN SOSHANGUVE is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

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Mampete Jemina Mookeng                  Date
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ABSTRACT

Cervical cancer is reported to be the first among the five leading cancers affecting women in South Africa and the leading cancer among Black females. There is a high incidence and mortality rate among underserved and under-screened women presenting with cervical cancer as they are often unable to access screening facilities. Very little has been done to establish the factors in private health care provision that influence the implementation of cervical screening programmes.

The study investigates factors influencing cervical cancer screening programme implementation among private medical practitioners in Soshanguve to establish whether private practitioners assume their roles in cervical screening. The intention is to provide guidelines for a screening programme that could be implemented in private health facilities. The study is qualitative, explorative, descriptive and contextual, using interviews and observation as the main data-collection methods.

Lack of awareness and interest, failure to inform patients about cervical screening, age and gender of medical practitioners were among the factors identified. The study concluded that awareness programmes about cervical screening and materials containing information on cervical cancer and predisposing factors should be designed. The utilization of cheaper laboratory service providers could increase participation by making the test affordable and accessible to cash patients. The establishment of a private Pap clinic within medical practices or even as an independent entity is also recommended.

Key words
Cervix, cancer, screening, phenomenology, private health care sectors, screening programme, qualitative research.
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