

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

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Abstract

Cervical cancer is reported to be 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.

The study investigates factors influencing cervical cancer screening programme implementation among private medical practitioners in Soshanguve. The intention is to provide screening guidelines for private health facilities. The study is qualitative, explorative, descriptive and contextual, using interviews and observations as the main data collection methods.

Failure to inform patients about cervical screening, lack of awareness, and gender of medical practitioners are 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 and the establishment of private Pap clinics within medical practices or as independent entities are recommended.

Key words

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