



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

19 March 2024

UCT opens clinic to provide affordable healthcare for its staff

The University of Cape Town (UCT) officially opened the doors to a state of the art Dis-Chem Wellness Centre – a clinic that will promote and provide access to affordable healthcare for university PC2-6 staff – on Monday, 18 March 2024. The centre is located at the Graca Machel complex on UCT’s Lower Campus.

Health services will be rendered to staff as a preventative, proactive, and reactive service to enhance a productive and healthy workforce whilst at the same time minimising absenteeism and keeping the institution running smoothly.

UCT Vice-Chancellor (interim), Emeritus Professor Daya Reddy, said the new facility opens a new chapter in the university’s ongoing efforts to be the employer of choice for all staff members, in particular colleagues in the lower pay classes who have limited resources. “This clinic makes it possible for our colleagues to access healthcare without having to leave campus. It is convenient as well as cost-effective,” he said.

Services to be provided at the clinic include:

- Screening of chronic medical diseases,
- Emergency medical care, illness and diseases,
- Employee wellness (blood pressure; blood glucose; cholesterol; HIV testing; basic laboratory testing; preventative treatment: adult immunization; female health screening and health evaluation: pap smear screening, breast examination)
- Management of communicable disease,
- Performance of clinic administration function, and
- Incident management, such as vaccine side effects.

The idea behind the service originally started in 2019 when Kaelo, who have now partnered with Dis-Chem, was awarded the primary healthcare clinic contract for a period of three years. At the end of 2022, the contract was awarded to Discovery Flexicare for 2023. This clinic had a doctor and nurse available for the staff on a half day basis for five days a week.

A review of primary healthcare benefits and on-site primary healthcare clinic services was conducted in 2023. This included a review of 2024 primary healthcare and primary healthcare clinic benefits, contribution comparison, provider demographics and primary healthcare benefits comparison. Four providers made presentations which were shared with

the coalition of staff unions, culminating in the approval of the Kaelo MyHealth Plus product offering. This offering includes a full day, Monday to Friday, Dis-Chem Wellness Clinic and Dis-Chem Pharmacy Depot, with effect from 1 January 2024.

Staff will have access to an on-site primary healthcare nurse and access to virtual GP consultants at the clinic. They will also have access to a Dis-Chem pharmacy depot and pharmacy assistant.

Professor Reddy commended the coalition of unions and the Human Resources department for making wellness and wellbeing a priority for every staff member at UCT.

Ends

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Thami Nkwanyane

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5672
Cell: (072) 563 9500
Email: thami.nkwanyane@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za