

Platinum Health takes proactive measures to protect patients with comorbidities

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Since the start of the lockdown, Platinum Health has taken proactive measures to reduce the COVID-19 risk to patients with comorbidities.

Most people who get very sick from the coronavirus have “underlying conditions” – other diseases that put them at particular risk. These underlying conditions, also called comorbidities, include hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, asthma, HIV and cardiac disease.

In support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines which states that patients with chronic medical conditions (such as HIV, high blood pressure, heart and lung disease, cancer and diabetes) are at greater risk of developing serious illness, the Scheme put the following measures in place to protect them:

- To reduce the exposure of chronic patients and therefore not wanting to expose high risk patients unnecessarily by visiting the pharmacies and medical facilities to collect chronic medicine; the Scheme has dispensed six months chronic medicine to the vast majority of members and dependants registered on the chronic disease programme as a precautionary measure.
- Despite a world-wide shortage of flu vaccines the Scheme managed to obtain forty six thousand flu vaccines at a cost of R3.8 million. Whilst the flu vaccine cannot prevent members from getting COVID-19 it is anticipated that it will reduce the probability of becoming critically ill should COVID-19 be contracted.

