

# GET THE TRUTH ABOUT CANCER

## Myth 04

### I don't have the right to cancer care



**Truth:** The Constitution of South Africa (Bill of Rights) guarantees all people the right to access proven and effective cancer treatments and services on equal terms and without suffering hardship as a consequence

**Misconception about the State's Responsibility to pay for Medical Care - The State must provide all my medical care and treatment including the most recently approved therapies**

**Reality -** The Constitutional Court Ruled in 1997 that the right to health and health care is a derogable (non-guaranteed) right, meaning that it's dependent on whether the State can afford such therapy [Thiagraj Soobramoney (appellant) versus Minister of Health (KwaZulu-Natal)]

#### Public Sector

- Tertiary Hospitals in South Africa have specialised oncology units, however, cancer treatment is also available at secondary hospitals
- The State included Hepatitis B and recently HPV vaccination as part of its Expanded Programme of Immunisation

#### Private Sector

- Medical Aid Organisations provide special oncology managed care programmes to its members
- Private Hospitals may provide oncology services
- There are also private oncology services provided by the South African Oncology Consortium (SAOC) and Independent Clinical Oncology Network (ICON)

**Prescribed Minimum Benefits** is a set of defined benefits (under the Medical Schemes Act) to ensure that all medical scheme members have access to certain minimum health services and therapies, regardless of their selected benefit option to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare



Our CANSA Care Centres country-wide offer a comprehensive prevention, care and support programme for cancer survivors and caregivers. We work with survivors to find the best care solution and advise on managing treatment and related side-effects, be it physical, emotional and/or spiritual.

Contact your nearest CANSA Care Centre to find out how we can help you or visit <http://www.cansa.org.za/cansa-care-centres/>