

11 September 2019

The Honourable Speaker
North West Provincial Legislature

Question for written reply

QUESTION TO THE MEC FOR HEALTH

On Monday, 5 August 2019, a 94-year-old patient was transported from a nursing home in Klerksdorp to the Potchefstroom Hospital after staff became concerned about high blood pressure.

At midnight, the patient's family were telephonically informed that the patient was discharged and the family should arrange an ambulance to collect her. A shortage of beds was cited as the reason for discharge.

Against this backdrop, we would like to know the following:

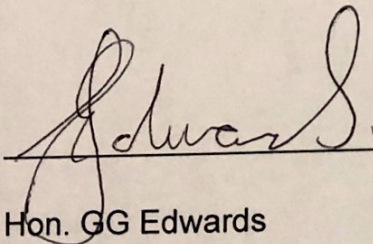
- 1.1. What policy is in place to deal with the transportation of frail, bedridden patients?
- 1.2. What policy / procedure does the hospital have to assist / manage the transportation of frail, bedridden patients back home after discharge? Kindly supply the details of such a policy, if any.
- 1.3. Kindly supply a copy of the Medical Discharge Policy, if any.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY.

LEADER: Mmusi Maimane | **CHAIRPERSON:** Athol Trollip

2. How many patients, who were in need of in-hospital care / treatment have been discharged from the Potchefstroom Hospital due to a bed shortage since 1 January 2019 to date?
3. Taking into consideration the large number of residents served by the Potchefstroom Hospital, kindly provide a copy of the Inter-hospital Transfer Policy in the event of unavailability of beds.
4. Taking into consideration the possibility of bed shortages in the hospital and the extended periods which patients may need to wait in the Casualty Unit (up to 18 hours), we want to know the following:
 - 4.1. Is any provision made for meals?
 - 4.2. How are these patients monitored/nursed?
 - 4.3. What systems are in place to monitor the duration patients spend in the Casualty Unit?

Yours faithfully,



Hon. GG Edwards

DA North West Spokesperson on Health
and Social Development

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Received by: Pinky

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 11/09/2019