

## **Belvedere Medical centre putting Zimbabwe on the world map**

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By Dr Brighton Chireka

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Two weeks ago I flew from Victoria falls to Harare after the ZIMA congress and had a 24hr stop in Harare. I then decided to visit one medical centre in Harare to see how things are run there. I always make it a point that each time I am in Zimbabwe I must visit one health centre and learn more about it. I have visited Parirenyatwa and Harare hospitals and I did travel at one point all the way to Karanda hospital in Mount Darwin. I have written about these hospitals and this time I am going to write about Belvedere medical centre.

Belvedere Medical Centre (BMC) is situated at 189 Samora Machel and Blakeway. BMC caters for both up market clientele ,the working population, and the busy entrepreneur . Its location provides easy access for residents in Belvedere, Harare North, Harare East and Harare South.



I had the opportunity of meeting Dr S T Makuni who is the clinical director and co founder of Belvedere medical centre. What a humble man who is soft spoken and down to earth . His passion for saving lives and charity work to help the underprivileged members of our society resonates well with me. Dr Simba Makuni's motto is that, "Human life is sacred and it is our business to safeguard that sacredness"

I also met his staff whose customer care was excellent and patients were speaking highly of some of the nurses. It is pleasing to get good feedback about nursing care in Zimbabwe. We tend to hear about the bad practice of some nurses but not at BMC. The centre is very neat and smells very nice and one will mistake it for a hotel .

## Zimbabwe Investment Authority awards 2015

On the 23 October 2015 BMC scooped 2nd Runner Up spot in the Investor of the Year Award For The Most Innovative and Promising Investor In The Small to Medium Enterprises Category. This

award by the Zimbabwe Investment Authority shows the hard work and determination character of the whole team at BMC. I am confident that they will continue to save lives and make a difference in the health of our people in Zimbabwe.

## **Partnership with hospital in India**

BMC Hospital is now in partnership with SPS Hospital from India. This partnership will pave way for the provision of advanced medical services locally in Zimbabwe and to promote BMC Hospital as a medical tourist destination in Africa. I await a day when people will be flocking to Zimbabwe for holiday combined with medical treatment at places like BMC.

## **Services provided at Belvedere Medical Centre (BMC)**

BMC has the invested in efficient and quality equipment and experienced staff and service software in order to ensure the delivery of top quality service to all its patients. The centre has capacity to handle traffic of 100 out -patients per day. BMC is a one stop shop offering a comprehensive range of testing and procedures and the convenience of an on -site pharmacy. The pharmacy is open from 8 am to 10pm .

They also offer ambulance services for prehospital assessments and the efficiency of their service is first class. I used their service when a relative needed an ambulance and was impressed with their efficiency.

BMC's services encompass various dimensions of wellness by carrying out the following initiatives such blood pressures measurements , health checkups, body mass index calculations, blood sugar tests, vaccinations and cervical cancer screening.

## **Cervical cancer screening**

They offer VIAC service at BMC. Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid and Camera, or VIAC, is an effective way to prevent cervical cancer in women. It involves examining the cervix for changes that might lead to cancer. If these changes are detected early, the cells can be eliminated before they become cancerous.

This "screen-and-treat "approach is an effective, low-cost way to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in low-income countries. The disease is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), and it is the leading cancer killer of women in Zimbabwe and other sub-Saharan African countries.

BMC offers home visits to those that are unable to come to the medical centre. They also run a travel clinic where one can get travel advice and vaccinations.

## Diaspora product

BMC has come up with a solution to help people in the diaspora. Some of you will remember that I had a company in 2007 that facilitated the people in diaspora to support their loved ones back home. BMC has taken this further and come up with a medical debit card. This allows people in the diaspora to open an account for their loved ones from anywhere in the world and deposit money straight into that account without sending money to an individual who may misuse it. We know that many times we have been told that so and so is sick and we send money so that they get medical attention. Instead of seeking treatment, the money is misused or sometimes it doesn't even get to it's intended beneficiary.

This article was compiled by **Dr Brighton Chireka** , who is a GP and a blogger based in Kent in the United Kingdom. Feel free to contact him at [info@docbeecee.co.uk](mailto:info@docbeecee.co.uk) and you can read more of his work on his blog at [DR CHIREKA'S BLOG](#)

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