

IMPACT OF LOADSHEDDING

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PURPOSE

- **To outline and highlight the impact of loadshedding on Hospital Services.**

BACKGROUND:

- **Loadshedding in hospitals arises through different aetiological causes.**
 - 1. Scheduled loadshedding by Eskom**
 - 2. Breakage of electrical infrastructure like transformers outside the hospitals**
 - 3. Theft and vandalism of electrical cables in or outside the hospitals**
 - 4. Failure in backup mechanisms of diesel generators**



IMPACT OF LOADSHEDDING AT HEALTH FACILITIES

- **Loadshedding affects sensitive machinery within the Hospitals**

ITEM	AREAS AFFECTED	CONSEQUENCES
Boilers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The steam reticulation system is not operational• Laundry services are affected• Kitchen services are affected• Auto-claves are affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No steam• Poor Supply of Linen• Poor supply of Food• Lack of sterilization of equipment

IMPACT ON CLINICAL SPACE

- **Loadshedding affecting Clinical Areas**

ITEM	AFFECTED AREAS	CONSEQUENCES
Information Technology System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient records • PACS System • NHLS blood results system • General ICT system supporting support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed retrieval of patient files – long waiting times • Delayed reporting of Radiological reports. Long waiting times for patients • Delayed retrieval of blood results – long waiting times • Cancellation or inefficiencies of operating services
Cost Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High costs for procuring of huge quantities of Diesel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-expenditure of budget allocation for Diesel



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ITEM	AREAS AFFECTED	CONSEQUENCES
Theatre Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elective cases not done	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgical Backlogs
Critical Care Areas (ICU and HIGH CARE AREAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most equipment's can only run for 30 minutes without power on back up supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morbidity and potential mortalities
Hot Water Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bathing of patients affected and the sterilization if water affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential Infection Outbreaks

IMPACT OF LOADSHEDING ON HOSPITALS

GENERATORS

- This equipment runs more than the time allowed in the service plan,
- This causes the equipment to be serviced twice or more than the planned scheduled intervals hence higher expenditure on maintenance.
- This pushes the cost of fuel higher than in the normal situation,
- Constant repairs due to burning of circuit breakers
- As generators are meant to be for standby, excessive use can lead to premature failure.



CONCLUSION

- **Hospitals on exemption of loadshedding are ferrying much better in terms of the consequences of electricity outages.**
- **Loadshedding exerting heavy demands on the diesel generators and the diesel supply.**



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