

Title	Expansion of Clubfoot Services and Training Project
Organisation	Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH), Gauteng Department of Health
Innovation	<p>In 2019, after a long period of consideration, the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) Physiotherapy Department identified the lack of training in management strategies as the main cause of poor management of patients with Clubfoot. Following discussions with orthopaedic surgeons at CMJAH it also emerged that there was a challenge of support and skills in smaller facilities within the province which added more pressure on academic hospitals.</p> <p>This resulted in the establishment of the Expansion of Clubfoot Services and Training Project.</p> <p>The Expansion of Clubfoot Services and Training Project initiative was started with the aim of providing training in the management of Clubfoot and to empower therapists physiotherapists initially to establish and support satellite Clubfoot clinics in Gauteng.</p> <p>The project is the first training of its kind in the Gauteng public health sector. More importantly, it has improved the services provided to patients. In addition, it has considerably strengthened the relationship between the various multidisciplinary teams (MDT) working in the hospital and as a result, ensured improved healthcare to patients based on their collaboration. Beyond the hospital, the project has resulted in a cordial relationship with various clinics across the country and the multidisciplinary teams based at the academic hospitals. It has also paved the way for the introduction of many new services while also enabling the addition of more trained staff to support services that already existed. Five satellite services were established in the province as an outcome of the training.</p> <p>The training curriculum for the Expansion of Clubfoot Services and Training Project comprised two parts, namely a theoretical component and a practical component. One theory session was organised for all trainees to attend together and thereafter each trainee had to attend a minimum of four practical sessions individually.</p>
Impact	<p>The project has been highly impactful. First off, it has made it possible for many patients to receive treatment closer to their homes at the satellite sites instead of travelling long distances on a weekly basis.</p> <p>In addition, while some patients still have to travel longer distances to big centres for more advanced procedures or for devices not offered at their local site, this would happen not as regular as before. On the other hand, the project brought much relief to both patients and their caregivers in terms of scarce finances and time.</p> <p>Of critical importance also is that a increased number of patients have become easily reachable and thus able to receive treatment. This has most remarkably had a major impact in terms of the many patients whose lives are improved. If clubfoot is treated early, children are reassured of a full life with potential to earn income, provide for their families and contribute to the larger community later in life.</p>

Proper management of Clubfoot has a far-reaching impact that extends beyond patients and their families. It has a positive impact on the community and reduces burden on the health services provincially and nationally.