

ACFE SA HEALTHCARE FORUM NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2016

Dear members,

By now you should all be familiar with the ACFE SA Healthcare Forum. For those who are not, the Healthcare Forum was established in order to develop an accredited training course for healthcare investigators. The Steering Committee of the Healthcare Forum has also been tasked with ensuring that the course and the academic standards link back to the ACFE Code of Ethics, at the same time adhering to the SAQA requirements and the ACFE SA Training standards.

This is the first newsletter from the Healthcare Forum and in our continued effort to create awareness in the industry; we hope to bring you exciting snippets of news and interesting content on a regular basis.

So, let's go back to basics and share some facts which some of you will know well and others will know nothing about.

WHAT IS HEALTHCARE FRAUD?

Healthcare fraud can be committed by anyone outside or within the healthcare environment, and is often related to syndicates or collusion involving more than one person. This type of fraud is on the increase, especially among healthcare providers who collude either with each other, or with medical scheme members to commit healthcare fraud.

Some examples of healthcare fraud include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Fraud by Medical Scheme members** (fake ailments, membership substitution, dual membership, doctor hopping, false or altered invoices and identity theft)
- **Fraud by Healthcare Professionals** (misuse of practice number, servicing non-members using the details of registered members, services not rendered, fraudulent over-servicing, merchandise substitution, script alterations, generics v/s ethicals and illegal billing)

Fraud affects every country and every sector. In the healthcare sector the latest global research shows that \$ 415 billion (over 4 trillion Rand) is lost. This would be enough to provide clean, safe water around the globe, bring malaria under control in Africa, provide the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine to 23.5 million children under one year old who are currently not immunized, quadruple the budget of the World Health Organisation and the UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), and with over US\$320 billion (over 3 trillion Rand) left over.

South Africa is not immune to this problem. Role players in the healthcare environment recognise that it is a serious issue and one that has far reaching consequences including the reduction in the availability and quality of patient care.

So, sign up for the ACFE SA Healthcare without delay and join hands with us in creating awareness and fight the scourge that has plagued the healthcare industry for far too long now.

Kind regards

LYNETTE SWANEPOEL – CHAIR, ACFE SA HEALTHCARE FORUM