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**CCSSA STATEMENT  
ON  
PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AS PART OF ICU  
CARE TEAMS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to unfold, the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa (CCSSA) would like to commend the indispensable contribution of all healthcare professionals that form part of the multidisciplinary team involved in the delivery of care to critically ill patients with COVID-19.

Effective ICU care teams rely on the contributions of a wide range of healthcare professionals to successfully manage critically ill patients. In addition to the doctors and nurses at the forefront of the COVID-19 response, the essential role of dietitians, physiotherapists, speech and occupational therapists, emergency care practitioners, technologists and radiographers, amongst others, must be recognized.

The complexity of COVID-19 critical illness needs all healthcare professionals to work together for optimal patient outcomes. Dietitians and physiotherapists play an essential role to ensure a combination of optimal nutrient and early mobilization, in order to curb muscle loss and enhance recovery. Physiotherapists are also essential in preventing and treating a range of potential pulmonary complications associated with COVID-19, in order to optimise ventilation and improve gaseous exchange. The contribution of each member of the ICU team is crucial.

In the coming days to months, immense pressure will be placed on our extremely limited resources, including our health care workers. We therefore call upon all institutions and ICUs, private and government, to support all healthcare professionals involved in the delivery of critical care. The safety and well-being of these crucially limited professionals needs to be ensured. Members of these critical care team must work closely together, not only to save lives, but to ultimately discharge COVID-19 survivors with enhanced long-term functionality and good quality of life. This can only be achieved through joint efforts by the entire critical care team.

Dean Gopalan  
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