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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

26 March 2020

COVID-19: PRICE REDUCTION

Recognising the crucial role of diagnostic testing in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister of Health has requested that all laboratories in South Africa work together to increase the capacity for testing in our country.

The co-operation of all laboratories was facilitated through an Exemption to the Competition Act that was published last week. This has allowed the four largest private laboratories (Ampath, Lancet, Vermaak and PathCare) to work with the State labs National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) to procure much needed items to be used for testing at reduced costs.

We are pleased to confirm that this has allowed us to reduce the cost per test to R850 inclusive of VAT (R739 plus VAT) with effect from 27 March 2020.

We support the government's efforts to increase the availability of testing to help curb this pandemic. We value the support that we have been given by suppliers and vendors towards reducing pricing at this time of crisis.

Yours sincerely,

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