

# Melomed Richards Bay Strengthens Advanced Cardiac Care Through Specialist Collaboration

**Melomed Richards Bay has taken another significant step in advancing specialised cardiac care in northern KwaZulu-Natal, following the successful performance of four Complex Chronic Total Occlusion (CTO) procedures at the facility.**

The procedures were led by resident specialist cardiologist Dr Sizwe Mthiyane, in collaboration with visiting interventional cardiologist Dr Keir McCutcheon, who is internationally trained and highly experienced in complex coronary interventions.

CTO procedures are among the most technically demanding coronary interventions, requiring a high level of expertise, advanced equipment, and a well-coordinated multidisciplinary team.

These procedures are performed on patients with completely blocked coronary arteries and are aimed at restoring blood flow, relieving symptoms, and improving quality of life.

Dr Mthiyane, who is a resident Cardiologist at Melomed Richards Bay, emphasised the importance of collaboration in achieving optimal patient outcomes. "Our priority is always the patient. Where collaboration with other experts enhances outcomes, we actively pursue it. Medicine is strongest when knowledge and skills are shared," said Dr Mthiyane. Under Dr Mthiyane's leadership, Melomed Richards Bay has continued to expand its cardiac capabilities, ensuring that patients in the region have access to advanced procedures that would traditionally require referral to major metropolitan centres.

The success of the recent CTO cases was also made possible by the highly skilled cardiac catheterisation laboratory team, nursing staff, and clinical support teams, whose preparation, precision, and commitment played a critical role throughout the procedures.

Hospital management welcomed the collaboration, noting that it reflects Melomed Richards Bay's broader vision of building centres of excellence through partnerships with leading specialists, while strengthening local expertise.

**For patients and families in the uMhlatuze region and surrounding areas, this milestone represents improved access to world-class cardiac care, delivered locally by a dedicated specialist team.**

**Melomed Richards Bay remains committed to investing in advanced medical services, specialist-led care, and collaborative practice models that place patient outcomes at the centre of everything they do.**

