True (A) or false (B):

Recommendations for the management of sickle cell disease (SCD)
1. Because of the influx of people from other African states into South Africa (SA) and an influx of the sickle gene, clinicians are likely to encounter an increasing number of patients with SCD.
2. The ‘hand-foot syndrome’ in infants and young children represents an acute vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC) involving small bones of the hands and feet.
3. The incidence of stroke, as a manifestation of VOC, is highest between the ages of 20 and 40 years.

Medical leadership and conflict of interest in SA healthcare
4. Ghost writing occurs when writers are contracted by the pharmaceutical industry to prepare a manuscript for publication.
5. In the wake of reports regarding the potential cardiovascular harms of rosiglitazone, authors who had favourable views on the safety of rosiglitazone were more than three times more likely to have a financial conflict of interest with a pharmaceutical company than those who had unfavourable views.

Appropriateness of computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging scans in the Eden and Central Karoo districts of the Western Cape
6. CT involves larger radiation doses than the more common conventional X-ray imaging procedures, with an attendant (albeit low) risk of radiation-induced carcinogenesis.

Identification and speciation of non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) isolated from specimens submitted to a tuberculosis laboratory
7. NTM are ubiquitous in nature, and can be recovered from a wide range of environmental sources.
8. NTM species are increasingly recognised as opportunistic pathogens (causing a spectrum of infections including pulmonary, lymphatic, skin and soft-tissue, and disseminated disease).

The association of khat (Catha edulis) chewing and orodental health
9. Khat chewing is shown to be associated with adverse orodental health outcomes such as oral mucosal white changes, gum recession, periodontal pocketing and gum bleeding.
10. The available evidence consistently indicates that khat chewing favours the proliferation of pathogenic oral micro-organisms.

Superheroes in autoimmune warfare: Biologic therapies in current SA practice
11. Biologic drugs are reserved for patients with severe disease who fail to respond to standard treatments.
12. In rheumatoid arthritis, patients with active disease despite synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs over at least 6 months can be considered for biologic therapy.

Investigation of adult immunodeficiency and indications for immunoglobulin replacement therapy
13. In patients presenting with recurrent localised infections, it is mandatory to exclude an underlying predisposing, regional anatomical defect.
14. Rare disorders such as cystic fibrosis and chronic granulomatous disease never present for the first time in adults.

Investigation and management of primary immunodeficiency in SA children
15. Respiratory infections are the commonest presenting symptom of primary immunodeficiency, and a positive family history is recorded in 30% of cases.

Advances in the diagnosis and management of allergic disease
16. Previous anaphylactic reaction to a food, insect sting, latex or unavoidable aeroallergen is an absolute indication for an injectable adrenaline device.
17. Children allergic to shellfish may outgrow the allergy.

Immune tolerance and immunosuppression in solid organ transplantation
18. Immunosuppressive drugs are also associated with significant long-term side-effects such as opportunistic infections, malignancies, nephrotoxicity, hypertension and diabetes mellitus.

Recommendations for the use of immunoglobulin therapy for immunomodulation and antibody replacement
19. Intravenous immunoglobulin therapy is highly effective in a number of neuromuscular diseases, but the substantial cost must be taken into account in developing a treatment plan.
20. It is unnecessary to check for hepatitis B/C or HIV before starting immunoglobulin therapy.