

**BOARD NOTICE 80 OF 2001**  
**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**RULES RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY**

The Health Professions Council of South Africa intends, in terms of section 26 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), to make the rules set out in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed rules to the Registrar, Health Professions Council of South Africa, P O Box 205, Pretoria, 0001 within one month of the date of publication of this notice.

**SCHEDULE**

**DEFINITIONS**

1. In these rules "the Act" means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and, unless inconsistent with the context -

"board" means the Medical and Dental Professional Board established by Government Notice R.75 of 16 January 1998;

"continuing professional development" means the continuing education and training referred to in section 26 of the Act and prescribed in terms of these rules;

"practitioner" means a medical practitioner or a dentist registered in terms of the Act.

"speciality" means one of the disciplines of medicine or dentistry prescribed in regulation 2 of the Regulations Relating to the Specialities and Subspecialities in Medicine and Dentistry.

"subspeciality" means one of the subdivisions of a speciality recognised in regulation 3 of the Regulations Relating to the Specialities and Subspecialities in Medicine and Dentistry.

## REQUIREMENTS

2. Any practitioner whose name on 1 January 1999 appears on the register of medical practitioners or the register of dentists kept in terms of section 18 of the Act, shall be required to comply with the conditions of continuing professional development laid down in these rules as a prerequisite for such practitioner to retain his or her registration in terms of the Act.

3. Any person who, after 1 January 1999, registers for the first time in terms of the Act as a medical practitioner or a dentist in any category of independent practice or public service, shall be required to comply with the conditions of continuing professional development laid down in these rules [from the following year], which shall be a prerequisite for such practitioner to retain his or her registration in terms of the Act.

4. A practitioner whose name had been erased from the register of medical practitioners or the register of dentists, shall be subject to compliance with any condition(s) which the board may specify prior to the restoration of the name of such practitioner to the relevant register.

5. For the purpose of continuing professional development, every practitioner shall be required to accumulate at least 50 points within any one year, provided that any points accumulated during one year in excess of 50 points may be forwarded to the subsequent year only.

Provided that, if the practitioner does not accumulate the prescribed minimum in any one year, he or she shall be permitted to obtain [100 points] as many points as required in the subsequent year.

6. The 50 points prescribed in rule 5 shall be accumulated by way of different educational or developmental activities accredited by the board in any of the following categories of activities:

(1) Organisational activities.

(2) Small group activities.

(3) Individual activities.

(4) Any other activities or category of activities which the board may accredit from time to time.

7. [During any one year, no practitioner may accumulate more than eighty (80) percent of his or her points from activities in any one of the categories specified in rule 6.] In complying with the requirements, no more than 80% of the points may be obtained in any one category.

8. Practitioners may obtain their points within their own speciality or subspeciality or within a relevant discipline.

9.(1) [During any one year, at least 2 points shall have to be obtained by every practitioner in professional ethics.] In complying with the requirements, at least 2 points shall have to be obtained by every practitioner in professional ethics annually.

(2) During any one year a maximum of 5 points may be obtained in non-clinical but health related activities.

10. Deferment of compliance with the requirements of continuing professional development may only be granted by the board on application to individual practitioners on submission of adequate reasons and subject to such requirements as the board may determine.

11. Full-time students in Family Medicine, registrars and senior registrars shall automatically be [granted deferment] considered to have complied for each year of –

- (a) such full-time study; or
- (b) registration with the board as a registrar or senior registrar; or
- (c) proof of appointment in a recognized training post for specialization in a country outside South Africa.

12. A practitioner registered to perform community service in terms of the provisions of Section 24A of the Act shall be required to comply with the requirements relating to continuing professional development whilst being so registered, as from 1 February 2002.

13. In the event of a practitioner not complying with the conditions specified in these rules within the prescribed period of time, the board may impose any one or more of the following conditions, namely –

- (a) grant the practitioner deferment for one extra year;
- (b) require the practitioner to follow a remedial programme of continuing education and training as specified by the board;
- (c) require the practitioner to write an examination as determined by the board;
- (d) register the practitioner in a category of registration which shall provide for supervision regarded as appropriate by the board;
- (e) ~~[erase the practitioner's name from the relevant register.]~~ register the practitioner in a category of registration restricted to non-clinical practice.

#### REPEAL

14. The Rules published as Board Notice 174 of 1998 are hereby repealed.

(11 May 2001)