

BOARD NOTICE 150 OF 2001**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA****RULES RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN BIO-MEDICAL ENGINEERING, CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, GENETIC COUNSELLING, MEDICAL BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND MEDICAL PHYSICS**

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 bio-medical engineer, clinical biochemist, genetic counsellor, medical biological scientist or a medical physicist registered in terms of the Act.

"non-clinical" as referred to in these rules, means any form of practice which is not related to an individual, group or community as the focus of a practitioner's professional activities in bio-medical engineering, clinical biochemistry, genetic counselling, medical biological science or medical physics.

REQUIREMENTS

2. Any practitioner whose name on 1 January 2003 appears on any of the registers of bio-medical engineers, clinical biochemists, genetic counsellors, medical biological scientists or the register of medical physicists 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 2003, registers for the first time in terms of the Act as a practitioner 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, which shall be a prerequisite for such practitioner to retain his or her registration in terms of the Act: Provided that any person who is registered for the first time after 1 January of any year, shall be required to comply on a *pro rata* basis with these requirements during the first year of his or her registration.

4. A practitioner whose name had been removed from the register of bio-medical engineers, clinical biochemists, genetic counselors, medical biological scientists or the register of medical physicists, shall be subject to compliance with any condition or conditions 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 points accumulated during a specific year in excess of 50 points may be forwarded to the subsequent year only: Provided further that, if the practitioner does not accumulate the prescribed minimum in any one year, he or she shall be permitted to obtain as many points as he or she may require 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. In complying with these requirements, no more than 80 percent of the points may be obtained in any one category.

8. Practitioners may obtain their points within their own discipline or professional category or within another relevant discipline, professional category, medical speciality or subspeciality or dental speciality.

9. (1) In complying with these 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 health related activities in business practice, administration or management.

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

11. Full-time students in advanced study in bio-medical engineering, clinical biochemistry, genetic counseling, medical biological science or medical physics shall be considered to have complied with the requirement in rule 5 for each year of such full-time

study on submission of documentary proof of being engaged in such full-time study at recognised or approved educational institutions in South Africa or abroad.

12. After the introduction of community service, 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.

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 registration category which shall provide for supervision regarded as appropriate by the board;
- (e) register the practitioner in a registration category restricted to non-clinical practice;
- (f) remove the practitioner's name from the relevant register.