

**BOARD NOTICE 11 OF 2002**  
**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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

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

**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;

"clinical practice" means the management of individuals or groups and may include, but is not confined to taking a history, performing an examination, ordering or performing tests or special investigations, making a diagnosis and administering or prescribing medical or dental treatment;

"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 as published in Government Notice No. R. 590 of 29 June 2001;

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

### REQUIREMENTS

2. Any practitioner whose name on 1 January 1999 appeared 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 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 medical practitioners or the register of dentists, 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, speciality or subspeciality or within another relevant discipline, speciality or subspeciality.

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 Family Medicine, registrars and senior registrars shall be considered to have complied with the requirement in rule 5 for each year of –

- (a) such full-time study on submission of documentary proof thereof; or
- (b) registration with the board as a registrar or senior registrar; or
- (c) documentary proof of appointment in a recognised training post for specialisation in a country outside South Africa.

12. A practitioner registered for the calendar year 2002 and thereafter 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 the prescribed registration category restricted to non-clinical practice;
- (f) remove the practitioner's name from the relevant register.

#### REPEAL

14. The Rules published as Board Notice 174 of 1998 and the draft rules published as Board Notice 80 of 2001 are hereby repealed.