

No. R. 1227

21 November 2008

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)****REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF INTERN MEDICAL ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS**

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 61(1), read with section 24 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and in consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations in writing on the proposed regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Human Resource Stakeholder Relations and Management), within three months of the date of publication of this notice.

**SCHEDULE****Definitions**

1. In these Schedule **“the Act”** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974) and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall have that meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates -

**“approved facility”** means a hospital, clinic, laboratory, healthcare centre, or any other institution which is approved by the board for the purpose of internship training;

**“board”** means the Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotics/Prosthetics and Arts Therapy established in terms of section 15 of the Act;

**“qualification”** means a qualification prescribed in rules relating to registration of medical orthotists and prosthetists under Government Notice R58 of 13 January 1989.

### **Registration as an intern medical orthotist and prosthetist**

2. Any person who holds a qualification prescribed under Government Notice R58 or who holds a qualification accepted by the board in terms of section 25 of the Act shall, before he or she is entitled to registration as a medical orthotist and prosthetist, undertake internship training to the satisfaction of the board for a period and in the manner prescribed in regulation 5, unless the board exempted such person partially or in full from this requirement on submission of documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the board of internship or equivalent training undergone or experience obtained elsewhere.

### **Requirements for registration**

3. A person referred in regulation 2 must apply to the board for registration as an intern, and –
  - (a) in the case of a person who commences internship training at an approved facility, such person to apply for registration within one month following the commencement of such training; or
  - (b) in the case of a person who on the date of publication of these regulations has already commenced training at an approved facility, such person to apply within one month after the date of publication of these regulations.

### **Information to be submitted to the board**

4. A person referred to in regulation 2 shall –
  - (a) submit his or her application for registration as an intern in medical orthotics and prosthetics to the board on an application form supplied by the board, and duly completed;

- (b) submit proof that he or she holds a qualification:
  - (i) qualification prescribed under Government Notice R 58 ; or
  - (ii) accepted by the board in terms of section 25 of the Act;
- (c) submit proof of admission to an approved facility to which he or she was admitted to undergo training as an intern and shall notify the board in writing in advance if he or she intends to change from that facility to another approved facility; and
- (d) pay the registration fee prescribed under regulations under Government Notice R279 of 14 March 2008.

#### **Conditions of internship training**

5. Internship training shall be of not less than twelve months' duration and, where it is broken or interrupted, it shall consist of periods which, when added together, are not less than twelve months in total, including vacation leave not exceeding one month's duration per annum, and sick leave not exceeding 12 working days per annum, and shall comply with criteria laid down by the board from time to time.
6. If a break or interruption in internship training, excluding leave referred to in regulation 5 exceeds a period of three months, the period of internship training prior to such break or interruption shall not be recognized as part of completed internship training.
7. The period of twelve months of internship training referred to in regulation 5 shall be completed within a period of two years from the date of registration as an intern medical orthotist and prosthetist.
8. If an intern does not complete his or her internship training within a period of two years, his or her registration in terms of the Act shall expire, unless he or she

provides the board with satisfactory reasons as to why his or her registration should be extended.

9. The training shall be undertaken by an intern in a facility approved by the board.
10. If a facility referred to in regulation 9 is not available, the board may, at its discretion, approve alternative training which in the board's opinion is equivalent to training at a facility approved by the board.
11. When approving an alternative training in terms of regulation 10, the board may stipulate that only a portion of an intern's training shall be undertaken at that facility, and that the remainder shall be undertaken at an approved facility.
12. If internship training at an approved facility is considered by the board for any reason to be inadequate or unsatisfactory, the board may-
  - (a) withdraw its approval of the facility and inform the intern at that facility accordingly in writing and advise such an intern to undertake internship training at another approved facility for the remaining period; or
  - (b) in the case where internship has already been completed by any intern, but considered inadequate or unsatisfactory by the board, extend the period of internship for such an intern and require him or her to complete the extended period at another approved facility.

#### **Duty certificate as proof of training**

13. Upon completion of internship training, an intern shall submit an internship duty certificate to the satisfaction of the board to certify that he or she has satisfactorily undertaken internship training as required by the board and such certificate shall be a precondition for registration as a medical orthotist and prosthetist.
14. The internship duty certificate referred to in regulation 13 shall be issued by the head of an approved facility where an intern successfully undertook internship training.

**Penalties for late registration**

- 16 Where an application for registration of an intern medical orthotist and prosthetist together with documents and fees referred in regulation 4 is submitted after the date specified in regulation 3, such application may be subject to the prescribed late registration fees in respect of each month or part of a month by which the application is submitted after the due date.



**Ms B Hogan, MP**  
**Minister of Health**

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