

**BOARD NOTICE 138 OF 2012****HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA****HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)****PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICAL RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PRACTITIONERS REGISTERED UNDER THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974**

The Health Professions Council of South Africa intends, in consultation with the professional boards under section 49(1) and 61A of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), to amend the ethical rules in the schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations in writing on the proposed amendments to the Registrar, Health Professions Council of South Africa (for the attention of the General Manager: Professional Boards) within three months from date of publication of this Notice by-

- (a) posting them to P O Box 205, Pretoria, 0001;
- (b) delivering them by hand at 553 Vermeulen Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0002; and
- (c) e-mailing them to BhekiM@hpcsa.co.za.

**SCHEDULE****Definitions**

1. In this Schedule, "**the Ethical Rules**" means the Ethical Rules of conduct for practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974, published by Government Notice No. R. 717 in Government Gazette 29079 of 4 August 2006, as amended by Government Notices Nos. R. 68 in Government Gazette 31825 of 2 February 2009 and R. 654 in Government Gazette 33400 of 30 July 2010, and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Ethical Rules shall have that meaning.

**Amendment of rule 1 of the Ethical Rules**

2. Rule 1 of the Ethical Rules is hereby amended:-
  - (a) by the substitution for the definition of "canvassing" of the following definition:

“**“canvassing”** means conduct which involves direct contact with prospective clients verbally or by, inter alia, distributing letters, pamphlets, circulars or other means of communication including printed or electronic communication, in which attention is drawn to one’s personal qualities, superior knowledge, quality of service, professional guarantees or best practice in order to secure the prospective clients’ custom;”

“(b) by the substitution for the definition of “**touting**” of the following definition:

“**“touting”** means, but is not limited to, conduct which draws attention, either verbally or by means of printed or electronic media, to one’s offers, guarantees or material benefits that do not fall in the categories of professional services or items, but are linked to the rendering of a professional service or designed to entice the public to the professional practice;”

#### **Amendment of rule 4 of the Ethical Rules**

3. Rule 4 of the Ethical Rules is hereby amended by the substitution for sub-rule (1) of the following sub-rule:

“(1) A practitioner shall print or have printed on letterheads, account forms and electronic stationery information pertaining to such practitioner’s -

- (a) name;
- (b) profession;
- (c) registered category;
- (d) speciality or subspeciality or field of professional practice (if any);
- (e) registered qualifications or other academic qualifications or honorary degrees in abbreviated form;
- (f) registration number;
- (g) addresses (including email address);
- (h) telephone and fax numbers;

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- (i) practice or consultation hours;
  - (j) practice code number; and
  - (k) dispensing licence number (if any)."



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ADV T BOIKANYO  
ACTING REGISTRAR

DATE: 15/03/2012

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