

BOARD NOTICES RAADSKENNISGEWINGS

BOARD NOTICE 188 OF 2012



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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA), having consulted with the Professional Boards for Homeopathy, Naturopathy, and Phytotherapy (PBHNP), Chiropractic and Osteopathy (PBCO), Therapeutic Aromatherapy, Therapeutic Reflexology, Therapeutic Massage Therapy (PBARM) and for Ayurveda, Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture and Unani-Tibb (PBACMU), announces that Continuing Professional Development (CPD) will be instituted from 1 July 2013.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. As from 01 July 2013, all registered practitioners and therapists, whose names appear on the registers kept in terms of Section 14 of the Allied Health Profession Act 63 of 1982 (as amended) 'the Act', are required to comply with the conditions of continuing professional development laid down in this Board Notice or any subsequent Board Notice as a prerequisite for such practitioner to retain his or her registration in terms of the Act.
2. For the purposes of complying with the requirements of continuing professional development the following conditions shall apply:
 - 2.1 CPD will run over a **two (2) year cycle** with all registered practitioners and therapists required to accumulate **40 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per cycle**;

- 2.2 In order to facilitate the implementation of the new system all registered practitioners and therapists **currently registered** with the AHPCSA will be given a **starting balance of 20 CEUs**;
 - 2.3 Any person, who is registered as a practitioner or a therapist for the first time after 1 July of a particular year, will commence with his / her CPD programme immediately. CEU values will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for the remainder of that year;
 - 2.4 Registered practitioners and therapists who accumulate more than 40 CEU values in a cycle will be permitted to carry over **to a maximum of 10 CEUs** to the next cycle;
 - 2.5 Registered practitioners and therapists shall be required to obtain a **minimum of two (2) CEUs** in AHPCSA specific Jurisprudence and Ethics per CPD cycle, while the balance of CEUs may be acquired at a single level or across all levels; and
 - 2.6 Registered practitioners and therapists who are registered in more than one (1) Allied Health profession will be required to obtain **30 CEUs per profession** with a **minimum of two (2) CEUs** for AHPCSA specific Jurisprudence and Ethics per CPD cycle.
3. CEUs are linked to a hierarchy of learning activities based on whether the outcome is measurable or not, or is a structured learning programme. The prescribed units in 2 above shall be accumulated by way of different educational or developmental activities approved by the AHPCSA in any of the following levels of activities:
 - 3.1 **Level one** activities with non-measurable outcomes, limited to a maximum of six (6) units in any one (1) year period;
 - 3.2 **Level two** activities with measurable outcomes; and
 - 3.3 **Level three** activities with formally structured learning programmes.
 4. Cross Recognition of CEUs
 - 4.1 Registered practitioners and therapists shall obtain their CEUs from approved CPD service providers within their own registered profession(s), within professions of the same registration category grouped under the same professional board or within another registered profession, provided that any such activity shall be in accordance with his or her scope of practice;
 - 4.2 Any CPD service provider from other registered healthcare professions registered under other statutory health councils may apply for approval to be accredited by the AHPCSA as an AHPCSA CPD service provider provided

that the CPD programme is an existing pre-approved CPD programme by that statutory health council; consideration of approval will require that that CPD programme lies within the scope of practice of an AHPCSA registered practitioner or therapist or may be of relevance to the CPD of that AHPCSA registered practitioner or therapist; and

- 4.3 In the case of international conferences approval shall be sought from the AHPCSA.
5. Deferment or exemption from compliance with the requirements of continuing professional development for any specific period may be granted to individual practitioners or therapists by the AHPCSA on application and submission of adequate reasons for such request and subject to any such conditions as the AHPCSA may determine.
6. In the event of a practitioner or therapist not complying with the requirements specified in these rules within the prescribed time frames:
 - 6.1 Such an omission shall be considered an omission in terms of Section 29 of the Act, under which the AHPCSA may take disciplinary action, and
 - 6.2 The AHPCSA may impose one or more of the following sanctions on the defaulting practitioner or therapist:
 - (a) such programme of continuing professional development as may be determined by the professional board;
 - (b) an examination as may be determined by the professional board;
 - (c) or any other disciplinary action as set out in Section 24(1) of the Act; or
 - (d) any other appropriate action as may be determined by the AHPCSA.

APPROVAL OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

7. Any person, institution, body, facility or organisation wishing to offer CPD to registered practitioners or therapists may apply to the AHPCSA for approval as a service provider.
 - 7.1 An application for approval as a service provider shall be:-
 - (a) submitted on the relevant application form obtainable from the AHPCSA, duly completed;
 - (b) supported by all the documentation as set out in the guidelines for service providers, which are obtainable from the AHPCSA; and
 - (c) accompanied by the prescribed fee.
 - 7.2 An application for approval as a service provider may be granted to any person, institution, body, facility or organisation complying with the

requirements of these rules and guidelines for continuing professional development as issued by the AHPCSA.

- 7.3 In the event that an application for approval has been declined, the applicant may appeal against the decision.
- 7.4 The appeal referred to in (7.3) must be submitted within 3 months from date on which the application was declined and must be accompanied by the documents referred to in (7.1) and written representations in response to the decision.
- 7.5 The AHPCSA, in consultation with the professional board, may after due consideration of an appeal brought to it in terms of (7.3), grant or decline the appeal.
- 7.6 An approval granted in terms of (7.2) or (7.5) shall be valid for a period of twelve months.

IMPLEMENTATION AND APPLICATION OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 8. CPD shall apply to every person registered as a practitioner or therapist under the Act.
 - 8.1 AHPCSA approved Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development are published on www.ahpcsa.co.za > Continuing Professional Development (CPD) > Guidelines.
 - 8.2 Applications from any person, institution, body, facility or organisation interested in offering CPD courses for Allied Health Professions must be in the prescribed manner as per the documentation published on www.ahpcsa.co.za > Continuing Professional Development (CPD) > Service Provider Application.

The CPD operates on a system of trust and as such all individual registered practitioners and therapists that attend CPD activities in order to comply with the statutory requirements as determined by the AHPCSA shall ensure that he/she is in possession of a certificate of attendance and shall keep such certificates of attendance for a minimum of two years on record to comply with random compliance checks.

DR LOUIS MULLINDER
REGISTRAR