

No. R. 637

13 June 2008

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF MEDICAL
SCIENCE

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33(1), read with section 61(2) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of 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 attention of the Director: Human Resource Stakeholder Relations and Management), within three months from date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations “**the Act**” mean the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning, and, unless the context otherwise indicates-

“**board**” means the Medical and Dental Professions Board established in terms of section 15(1) of the Act;

“**medical science**” means the profession of a person registered as a medical scientist or an intern in medical science in terms of the Act;

“**section**” means a section of the Act.

Scope of the profession

2. The following acts are hereby specified as acts which, for purposes of section 33 of the Act, shall be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of medical science, which acts shall be performed as an auxiliary and supporting service to medicine and in line with the scopes of practice for medical scientists as prescribed under the medical and dental professions board Annexure to the Ethical Rules published as Government Notice No. R. 717 of 4 August 2007:

The development, evaluation and practice of scientific procedures which involve humans or human biological material subject thereto that such acts will lead to or impact on treatment, diagnosis and genetic counseling of humans and, where appropriate, interpretation, quality management, patient genetic counseling and consultation with other registered and appropriately qualified health practitioners.

3. The provisions of regulation 2 must not be construed as prohibiting the performance of the acts specified therein by-

- (a) any person registered under the Act from performing such acts, in accordance with the provisions of their scope of the profession or scope of practice;
- (b) a student or intern medical scientist under the supervision of a medical scientist or medical specialist in the course of his or her education and training; and
- (c) any person in the course of a bona fide research at any institution approved for that purpose by the Minister.

Registration a prerequisite to practice

4. Any person who wishes to perform any of the acts prescribed in regulation 2 shall apply in the prescribed manner to the board for registration as a medical scientist in the relevant discipline to which that act pertains and submit proof of having complied with the prescribed requirements for such registration.

Repeal and Commencement

5. Upon promulgation of these Regulations, the Regulations published as Government Notice No. R. 1072 of 17 May 1991 shall be repealed.



DR ME TSHABALALA-MSIMANG, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH