
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. R. 62

02 FEBRUARY 2018

**SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS ACT, 1978
(ACT NO. 110 OF 1978)****CALL FOR COMMENTS ON REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE
REGISTRATION OF A SPECIALISATION IN HEALTH CARE SOCIAL WORK**

I, Bathabile Olive Dlamini, Minister of Social Development, intend to make the Regulations in terms of section 17C(2)(a)(ii); 28(1) (ii) and 28(1) (gA) of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act No. 110 of 1978), as set out in the schedule. Interested persons or organizations are hereby invited to submit written comments on the draft regulations within 30 calendar days from the date of publication. Comments must be forwarded for the attention of Ms Galeboe Rapoo, by:

Post to:

The South African Council for Social Service Professions
Private Bag X12
Gezina
0031;

(b) Hand to:

The South African Council for Social Service Professions
37 Annie Botha Avenue
Riviera
PRETORIA
0084;

(c) Fax to:

+27 (0)12 356 8400; and

(d) By email to:

registrar@sacssp.co.za



Ms BO DLAMINI, MP

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 22. 09. 17

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have such meaning unless the context otherwise indicates –

“Act” means the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978);

“SACSSP” means the South African Council for Social Service Professions established by Section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act No.110 of 1978);

“social work” means a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people with the principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities being central to social work and underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing;

“social work in health care means” a specialisation in social work in the field of health care, which focuses on health promotion, prevention, intervention and research regarding the psycho- social assessment of the implications of illness, disability, chemical dependence, medical treatment, care and support, hospitalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration of patients with significant others and the community from a holistic perspective; and

“social work in health care” encompasses the interface between health conditions and client systems and includes:

- Knowledge and understanding of acute and chronic medical conditions and develop specific intervention strategies;
- Psycho-social assessment of experiences and implications;

- Holistic care planning in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team;
- Medico –legal aspects and implications of the conditions; and
- Discharge planning and /or end of life care.

Requirements for registration of a specialisation in health care

2. (1) The SACSSP shall on application register a specialisation in social work in health care, where a social worker has a recognised qualification in social work and is registered as a social worker with the SACSSP and has any one or more of the following-

- (a) an appropriate Master's degree approved by the SACSSP related to social work in health care, plus at least two years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of health social work services; or
- (b) five years appropriate and evidence based practical experience within the scope of health social work services; provided that the applicant demonstrates expertise in social work in health care by meeting the assessment criteria of the SACSSP for the purpose of determining whether the social worker concerned is competent to practice health social work.

(2) A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in 2 (1)(a) or (b) will need to register for the specialisation in health care within a period of four years of this regulations being published in Government Gazette. Failure to register within the prescribed period will require the applicant to comply with 2 (1)(a) .

(3) A social worker who has registered as a specialist should adhere to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy of the SACSSP and should ensure that the CPD activities that they attend include

specific development related to the specialisation in social work in health care that is being practised.

Conditions for practising specialisation in social work in health care

3. (1) A social worker who has complied with the requirements referred to in regulation 2 may practise the profession of social work in respect of a specialisation in health care subject to the following conditions-

- (a) the applicant must be registered as a social worker with the SACSSP; and
- (b) the applicant must pay the prescribed registration fee relating to the registration of the specialisation.

(2) In the case of a social worker applying for the registration of a specialisation in terms of regulation 2 (1) (a) and (b), the prescribed assessment fee has to be paid.

(3) A social worker who has registered a specialisation in social work in health care is not excluded from practising social work within a generic context.

(4) A social worker who does not have the required experience in social work in health care and who wishes to obtain registration as a specialist in health care, may obtain such experience under the supervision of a social worker registered as a specialist in social work in health care with the SACSSP.

(5) The scope of practice of the specialist in social work in health care will focus mainly on the following:

- (a) functioning within a multi-disciplinary and/or inter-disciplinary team context and contributing to the holistic treatment and discharge plan of the patient;
- (b) psycho social assessment of and intervention with the individual and the environment focussing on the needs of the patient system and insight in the medical terminology, diagnosed medical condition and possible implications, including the ability to adapt and adhere to treatment, rehabilitation or the reality of end of life;
- (c) implement appropriate models of intervention when intervening with individuals, and communities as health care users in line with appropriate legislation, policies and procedures;
- (d) discharge planning focussing on the psycho-social adjustment to living with the illness or disability;
- (e) education and prevention concerning the condition or illness, treatment options and rehabilitation and empowering the patients and significant others to make informed decisions and adhere to the treatment;
- (f) community based education, rehabilitation and facilitating home-based care;
- (g) advocate, facilitate, liaise, coordinate and be a catalyst between the health service provider and user regarding health service provision;
- (h) liaise and network with relevant stakeholders, facilitate the development of sustainable resources where necessary and refer inter-sectorial where appropriate; and

- (i) influence the development of policies, procedures and legislation

Application for registering a specialisation in social work in health care

4. (1) Application for the registration of a specialisation in social work in health care shall be made on a form obtainable from the SACSSP.

(2) Such application form shall be accompanied by –

- (a) proof of registration as a social worker with the SACSSP;
- (b) a certified copy of documentary proof of the appropriate and relevant experience referred to in regulation 2 (1) (a) and (b);
- (c) certified copies of documentary proof of qualifications obtained referred to in regulation 2; and
- (d) the registration fee referred to in regulation 3(1).

General provisions

5. (1) A social worker who has registered a specialisation in social work in health care may affix the designation "health care social work specialist" (HCSW)" after his or her name.

(2) No person may call him or herself a health care social worker without having registered a specialisation in health care with the SACSSP.

(3) A social worker who has registered a specialisation in social work in health care shall display conspicuously in his or her office the registration certificate issued to him or her in terms of the Act.

Short title and commencement

6. These regulations are called Regulations Relating to the Registration of a Specialisation in Health Care Social Work, 2017 and shall come into operation on the date of the publication in the Government Gazette.