

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 878


17 September 2021

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

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF PODIATRY

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for Physiotherapy, podiatry, and biokinetics, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance, mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za and paul.tsebe@health.gov.za), within three months of the date of publication of this Notice.



DR M.J PHAAHLA, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH
DATE: 01/09/2021

SCHEDULE

Definitions

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

Act pertaining to podiatry

2. The following acts are, for the purposes of the Act, deemed to be acts specially pertaining to the profession of podiatry-

- (a) undertaking comprehensive assessment of a patient to gather relevant information using appropriate techniques and procedures;
- (b) undertaking additional investigations (including biopsy and blood tests; ultrasound/doppler) as appropriate, or refer to other professional(s) as required and, through a process of clinical reasoning, formulate a diagnosis or hypothesis;
- (c) collaboratively developing and implementing a patient-centred plan which may include:
 - (i) Debridement of skin and nails,
 - (ii) Wound assessment, care and management,
 - (iii) Foot and lower limb health promotion or education,
 - (iv) Appropriate mechanical therapies for foot, ankle and lower leg,
 - (v) Administration and prescription of limited scheduled medication and over-the-counter drugs,
 - (vi) Injection techniques,
 - (vii) Minor surgical interventions for foot pathologies,
 - (viii) Electrotherapeutic modalities and physical agents,
 - (ix) Gait assessment and retraining,
 - (x) Manual techniques (manipulation and mobilisation), and
 - (xi) Prescription and manufacture of foot and ankle orthoses;
- (d) using appropriate monitoring procedures;
- (e) making recommendations for self-management and empowerment;
- (f) Providing consultancy services;
- (g) Providing disability and medico-legal assessments and report writing;
- (h) Diagnosing and treating foot, ankle, and lower limb due to deformities, pathologies; and injuries and secondary complications due to systemic disorders.

Repeal

3. The regulations defining the scope of the profession of podiatry as published under Government Notice R361 in *Regulation Gazette* 3378 of 26 February 1982 are hereby repealed.

Short title

4. These Regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Podiatry, 2021.