

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 7925

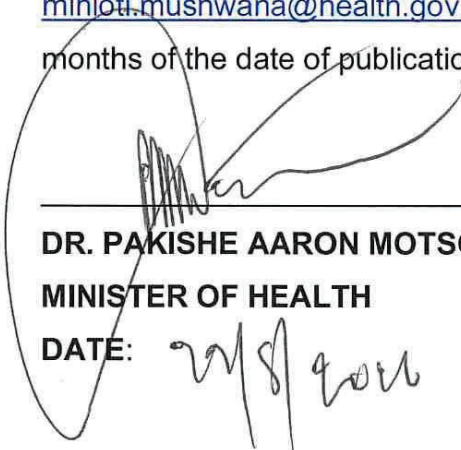
18 September 2026

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

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF
PHYSIOTHERAPY

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33(1) 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 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. PAKISHE AARON MOTSOALEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 21/8/2026

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, and 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).

Acts of profession of physiotherapists

2. The following are acts specially pertaining to the profession of physiotherapy-
 - (a) undertaking a comprehensive assessment of a patient or group, to gather relevant information using appropriate techniques and procedures;
 - (b) undertaking additional and appropriate investigations, or referring patients to other health practitioners where necessary and, through a process of clinical reasoning, formulate a diagnosis or hypothesis;
 - (c) collaboratively developing and implementing patient-centred plan which may include:
 - (i) therapeutic exercise;
 - (ii) functional rehabilitation in self-care and home management;
 - (iii) functional rehabilitation for work, community, and leisure activities;
 - (iv) manual therapy techniques (including mobilisation and manipulation);
 - (v) prescription, and application of devices and equipment (assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive and prosthetic devices);
 - (vi) airway clearance techniques;
 - (vii) integumentary repair and protection techniques;
 - (viii) electrotherapeutic modalities;
 - (ix) physical agents and mechanical modalities;
 - (x) patient and caregiver education and counselling;
 - (d) using appropriate monitoring procedures;
 - (e) making recommendations for self-management and empowerment;
 - (f) providing consultancy services;
 - (g) providing disability and medico-legal assessment and writing reports;

- (h) managing persons with acute, chronic, and persistent pain;
- (i) managing persons presenting with the dysfunction of the neuro-musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological, and integumentary systems, from acute presentation to final stage rehabilitation; and
- (j) enhancing the quality of life of individuals and communities by restoring and optimising purposeful, precise, and efficient human movement system.

Repeal of laws

3. The Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Physiotherapy as published under Government Notice No. R2301 in *Government Gazette* No. 5349 of 03 December 1976 are hereby repealed.

Short title

4. These Regulation are called the Regulations defining the Scope of the Profession of Physiotherapy, 2026.