

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY PERSONS REGISTERING IN TERMS OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974

Published under Government Notice R688 in *Government Gazette* 18890 of 15 May 1998 and amended by:

GN R498	GG 21178	19/5/2000
GN R69	GG 23047	22/1/2002
GN R620	GG 34494	5/8/2011

The Minister of Health has, in terms of [section 24A](#) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), after consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

### SCHEDULE

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#### Definition

- 1.1 In these regulations, “**the Act**” means 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.

#### Professions in respect of which community service shall be performed

- 2.1 Any person registering for the first time for any of the following professions in terms of the Act shall perform community service as prescribed in these regulations:
- Profession of a medical practitioner;
  - profession of a dentist;
  - radiography;  
[Para. (c) added by GN R69/2002]
  - physiotherapy;  
[Para. (d) added by GN R69/2002]

- (e) speech, language and hearing therapy;  
[Para. (e) added by GN R69/2002]
- (f) occupational therapy;  
[Para. (f) added by GN R69/2002]
- (g) environmental health;  
[Para. (g) added by GN R69/2002]
- (h) dietetics; and  
[Para. (h) added by GN R69/2002]
- (i) clinical psychology.  
[Para. (i) added by GN R69/2002]

Provided that persons registered under [section 29](#) of the Act may not be required to perform community service.

[Reg. 2.1 amended by GN R498/2000 and GN R69/2002]

- 2.2 The Minister shall by notice in the Government Gazette determine the date on which community service shall commence in respect of each of the professions listed in 2.1.
- 2.3 A person registering for the first time in terms of the Act shall include a person who has completed internship where internship is required by the Act and a person who obtained his or her qualifications outside the Republic.

### **Registration of persons performing community service**

- 3.1 The register of persons performing community service established by the council in terms of the Act shall reflect all such information as is recorded in the register of the professions contemplated in 2.1.
- 3.2 An applicant for registration as a person performing community service shall submit to the council the following:
  - (a) Proof that he holds a qualification recognised by the council in terms of regulations made under [sections 24](#) and [25](#) of the Act; and
  - (b) a formal application for registration as a person performing community service.
- 3.3 A person performing community service shall notify the council as soon as he or she has assumed duty of the fact and of the name of the health facility where community service is being performed.
- 3.4 A person performing community service shall be subject to the rules of professional conduct prescribed for a profession in respect of which community service is performed.

## **Conditions of service**

- 4.1 The conditions of service applicable to the public service shall apply to persons performing community service: Provided that in the case of persons performing community service at the local sphere of government, the conditions of service applicable to the persons employed under the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000, shall apply.

[Reg. 4 substituted by reg. 4.1 by GN R620/2011]

## **Places where community service is to be performed**

- 5.1 A person contemplated in subregulation 2.1 shall apply for a post in a health facility or a complex of health facilities approved for the purposes of performing community service and a list of approved facilities shall be published by the Minister in the Government Gazette.
- 5.2 The Minister may, after consultation with a Member of the Executive Council responsible for health in a province, make a final decision with regard to a place where a person contemplated in subregulation 2.1 shall perform community service.

## **Interruption of period of community service**

- 6.1 If a period of community service is broken or interrupted, such period shall consist of periods which, when added together are not less than one calendar year in total, including approved periods of leave: Provided that community service shall be completed within a maximum period of two years.
- 6.2 The period of community service already served shall lapse if community service is not completed within a maximum period of two years.

## **Report on completion**

7. On completion of community service by a person a report shall be issued by the relevant health authority as evidence to the Health Professions Council and the Department that such person has satisfactorily completed community service.