

# Practitioner Roadshow Seminar 2013



## HEALTH COMMITTEE



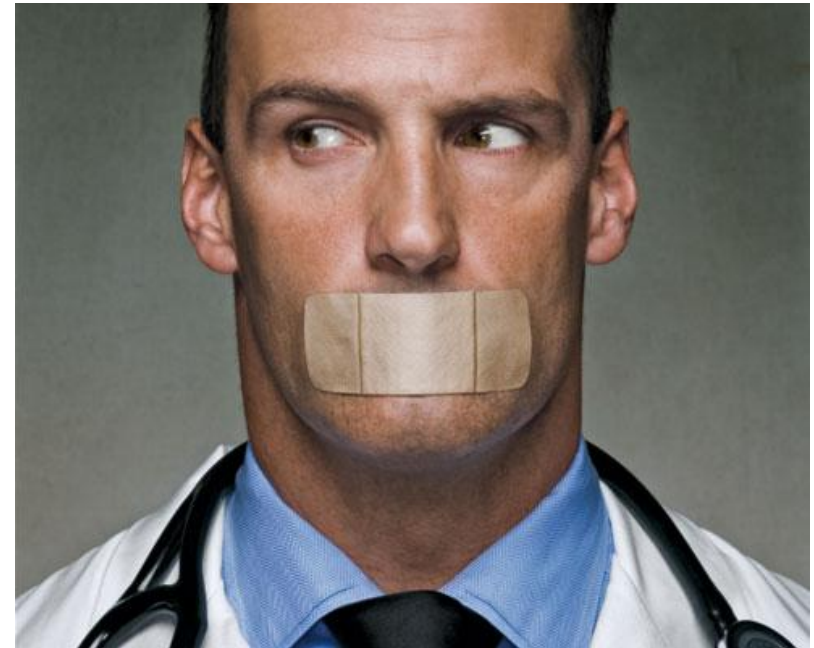
**THE HEALTH COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 15(5)(F) OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO.56 OF 1974) AND INCLUDES A JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 15B (1)(F) OF THE ACT.**

- The Health Committee regulates/advises impaired practitioners who suffer from mental or physical condition or the abuse of or dependence on chemical substances, which affects the competence, attitude, judgment or performance of a student or a person registered in terms of the Health Professions Council Act, (Act 56 of 1974) section 51.
- The Health Committee is a non-punitive Committee which was established to manage the compliance of the practitioners while also protecting the public. The Committee also focuses on the refinement of the regulations and procedures affecting the day to day functions and operations of the Health Committee.



# FUNCTIONS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

- ❑ Establish policies and procedures and to enlist cooperation and support for the prevention or alleviation of circumstances which may lead to impairment in students and practitioners.
- ❑ Establish mechanisms and procedures for the early identification of impairment in students and practitioners



❑ .



# FUNCTIONS OF THE HEALTH

## COMMITTEE (cont.)

- ❑ Implement procedures for handling crisis situations which may threaten patient safety and care.
- ❑ Undertake informal assessments of reports on alleged impaired students and practitioners, to make findings with regard to impairment and , if required, to impose conditions of registration or practice on such persons aimed at protection of patients and treatment of impaired persons.





# FUNCTIONS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

- ❑ Appoint investigation committees on an Ad Hoc basis to undertake formal investigations into reports on alleged impairment in the absence of voluntary cooperation of students or practitioners, to make findings with regard to impairment and, if required, to impose conditions of registration or practice aimed at protection of patients and treatment of impaired students or practitioners
- ❑ Consider applications by students or practitioners who were found to be impaired to have their conditions of registration or practice amended or to have such conditions revoked.
- ❑ Oversee the implementation of treatment programmes of impaired students or practitioners and to review the position of each such student or practitioner at least every three years.



# PROCESSES OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

- ❑ Complaints regarding alleged impairment are lodged with the Health Committee secretariat;
- ❑ The matter is reported to the Health Committee for consideration during its next meeting;
- ❑ An informal investigation in terms of SECTION 51 of the Health Professions Act is put into place;
- ❑ One specialist is appointed by the Committee to assess the practitioner for the alleged impairment, the practitioner appoints a second specialist of his choice.
- ❑ The above mentioned specialists are given reporting guidelines for the assessment;



## PROCESSES (cont.)

- ❑ The practitioner is informed of the complaint and is requested to undergo an assessment with the appointed specialists;
- ❑ The assessment reports from the two appointed specialists are submitted to the Committee for consideration;
- ❑ Should the committee determine that an impairment exists, the practitioner will be declared impaired. The impairment is then processed on the HPCSA administration system against the practitioners name;
- ❑ The practitioner would then be required to work under supervision and to undergo treatment with the treating practitioner/institution approved by the Committee;



## PROCESSES (cont.)

- The Committee monitors and enforces compliance by Practitioners.
- If impairment doesn't exist, the Committee dismisses the case and the practitioner is informed accordingly;
- The assessment reports from the two appointed specialists are submitted to the Committee for consideration;
- Should the committee determine that an impairment exists, the practitioner will be declared impaired. The impairment is then processed on the HPCSA administration system against the practitioners name;





## PROCESSES OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE



- ❑ The practitioner would then be required to work under supervision and to undergo treatment with the treating practitioner/institution approved by the Committee;
- ❑ The Committee monitors and enforces compliance by Practitioner.

# PROCESSES OF THE HEALTH

## COMMITTEE (cont.)

- ❑ If impairment doesn't exist, the Committee dismisses the case and the practitioner is informed accordingly.
- ❑ Should the practitioner refuse to subject himself/herself to the informal investigation, the Committee will do a formal investigation in terms of SECTION 51 of the Health Professions Act



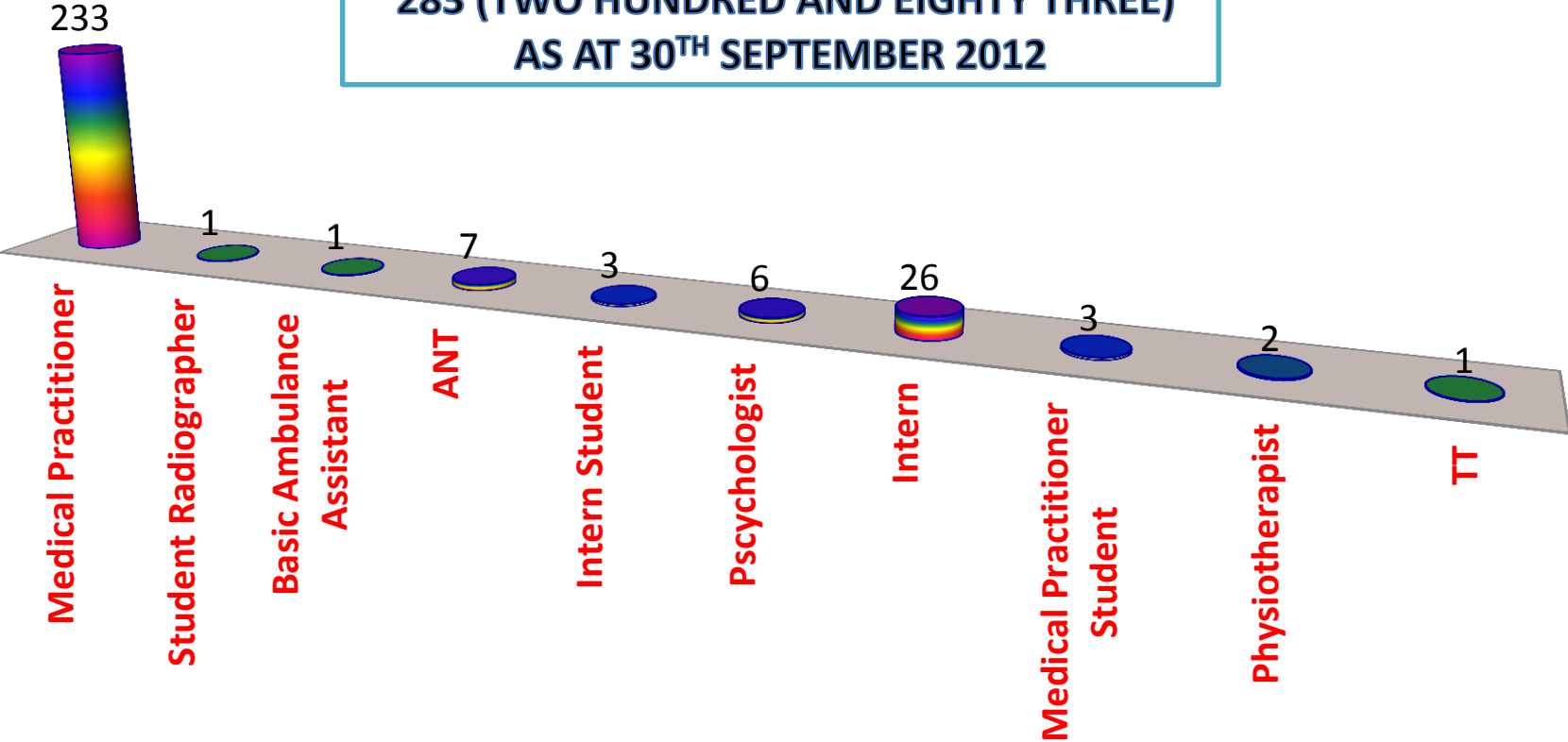
## PROCESSES (cont.)

- The practitioner will be sent a notice to subject himself/herself to do the assessment within 30 days;
- Should the practitioner refuse to comply with the notice given;
- The practitioners name will be suspended from the register of health practitioners until such time that the practitioner is assessed by the two specialists and properly diagnosed.

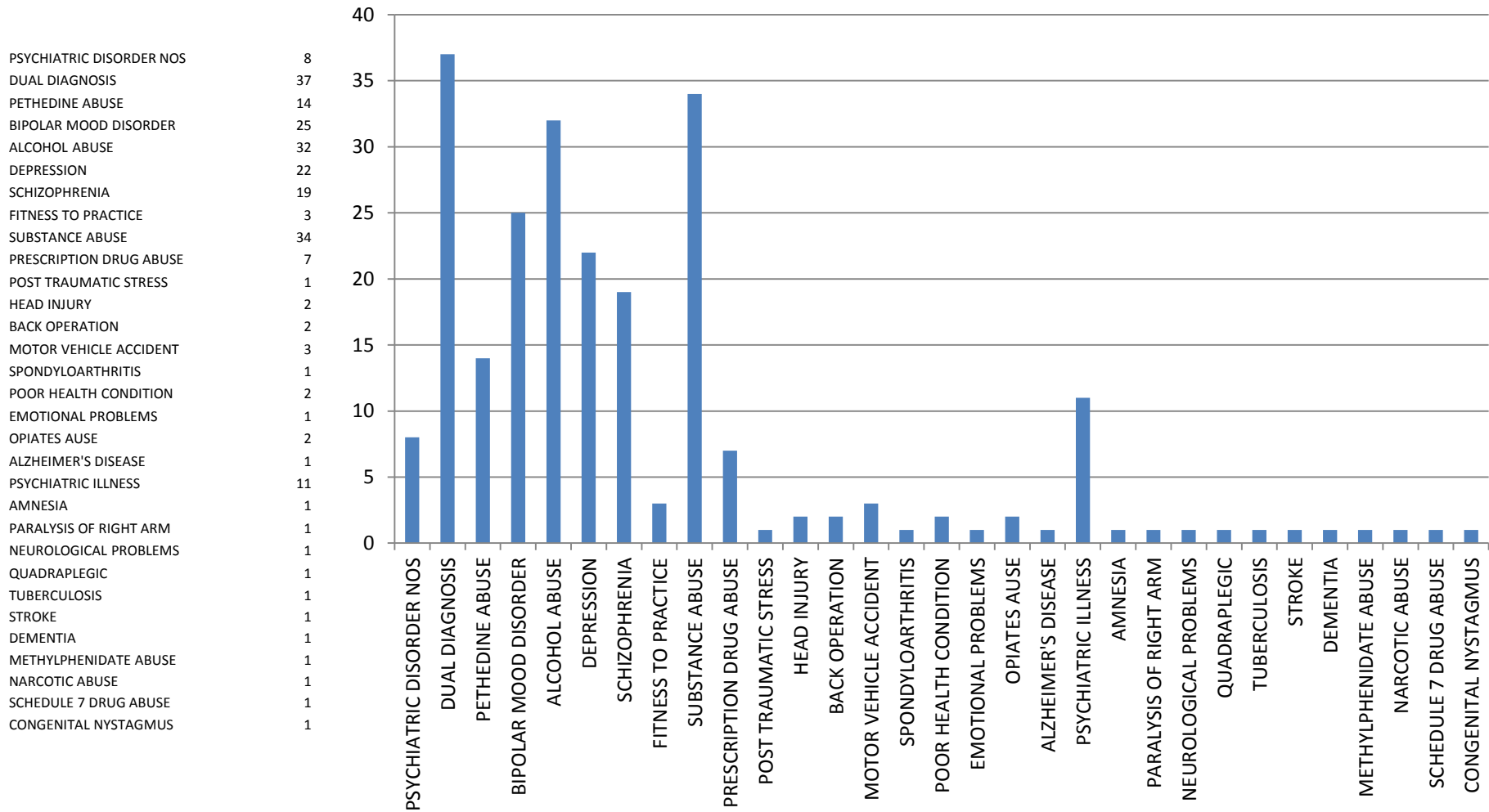


# RECORD OF IMPAIRMENT

TOTAL IMPAIRED PRACTITIONERS ON RECORD  
283 (TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THREE)  
AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012



# STATISTICS - DIAGNOSIS





# REHABILITATION AND COMPLIANCE OF PRACTITIONERS

- ❑ The following are the guidelines that should be followed during the rehabilitation process after a practitioner has been declared impaired.
- ❑ Three monthly progress reports should be submitted to the Health Committee by the treating doctor and the supervisor for a period of twelve months for consideration by the Committee;
- ❑ If progress is observed and the practitioner is complying, the Health Committee requires six monthly reports from the treating doctor and the supervisor for consideration during the second year ;



# REHABILITATION AND COMPLIANCE OF PRACTITIONERS

- If progress is observed and the practitioner is complying, the Health Committee requires an annual report from the treating doctor and the supervisor for the third year;
- An interview is conducted by the Health Committee and depending on the progress made in achieving rehabilitation, the conditions of service imposed upon the practitioner may be **LIFTED**.
- If the practitioner does not comply with conditions of service, his/her name is suspended from the register until compliance is observed.

The Health Committee Secretariat can be contacted at 012 338 9447 and the regulations are accessible at [www.hpcsa.co.za](http://www.hpcsa.co.za)

