

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF EMERGENCY CARE

Published under Government Notice R48 in *Government Gazette* 23040 of 25 January 2002. The Minister of Health has, in terms of [section 33](#) (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

### SCHEDULE

1. [Definitions](#)
2. [Act pertaining to the profession of emergency care](#)
3. [Repeal](#)

#### 1. **Definitions**

In these regulations any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates-

**“approved ambulance service”** means an ambulance service which has been approved by the Professional Board for Emergency Care Personnel as suitable for the transportation of persons in emergency care situations;

**“emergency care”** means the rescue, evaluation, treatment and care of an ill or injured person in an emergency care situation and the continuation of treatment and care during the transportation of such person to or between health establishment(s);

**“emergency care personnel”** means persons registered under [section 17](#) of the Act as paramedics, ambulance emergency assistants, basic ambulance assistants, operational emergency care orderlies, emergency care assistants and/or persons who hold a valid first aid certificate issued by a first aid organisation accredited by the Professional Board for Emergency Care personnel;

**“emergency care situation”** means circumstances during which a person is injured or is for some other reason in mortal danger and in need of emergency care;

**“health establishment”** means the whole or part of a public or private institution, facility, agency, building or place, whether organized for profit or not, that is operated or designated to provide inpatient or outpatient treatment, therapeutic interventions, nursing, rehabilitative, palliative, preventive or other health services;

**“the Act”** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974).

#### 2. **Act pertaining to the profession of emergency care**

The following acts of emergency care personnel shall, for the purposes of the act, be deemed to be acts that pertain especially to the profession of emergency care:

- (a) The identification of the emergency care needs of a person in an emergency care situation;
- (b) the evaluation of the emergency care needs of a person in an emergency care situation with due regard to his or her safety and the implementation of precautions to ensure his or her safety;
- (c) the rescue of a person from an emergency care situation or from a potential emergency care situation;

- (d) the provision of emergency care to a person in an emergency care situation;
- (e) the prevention of further injury to, and the combating of possible complications of an illness or injury of, a person in an emergency care situation;
- (f) the transportation in an emergency care situation of an injured or seriously ill person to, at or between health establishment(s) by an approved ambulance service.

**3. Repeal**

The regulations promulgated by Government Notice No. R. 670 of 15 April 1994 are hereby repealed.