

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION AND TRAINING OF INTERNS IN MEDICINE

Published under Government Notice R.57 in *Government Gazette* 25938 of 23 January 2004.

The Minister of Health has, in terms of [section 61](#) (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), in consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

1. Definitions

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 and unless the context otherwise indicates -

“**approved facility**” means a hospital, clinic or a health care centre which has been approved by the board for the purpose of internship training;

“**board**” means the Medical and Dental Professional Board established, in terms of [section 15](#) of the Act, under Government Notice No. R. 75 of 16 January 1998.

2. Registration as an intern in medicine

- (1) Any person who holds a qualification prescribed in the regulations made in terms of section the Act shall, after or in connection with obtaining such a qualification and before he or she is entitled to registration as a medical practitioner in any category of such registration, undertake training to the satisfaction of the board as an intern in medicine for a period and in the manner described in regulation 3, unless the board exempted him or her partially or in full from this requirement on submission of documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the board of internship or equivalent training undergone or experience obtained outside South Africa.
- (2) The register kept in terms of [section 18](#) of the Act shall reflect all such information as the board may require.
- (3) A person referred to in subregulation (1) shall -
 - (a) submit his or her application to the board in terms of [section 17](#) of the Act for registration as an intern in medicine on an application form supplied by the board and duly completed;
 - (b) submit proof that he or she holds a qualification -
 - (i) prescribed in the Regulations relating to the Registration of Persons as General Practitioners and Family Physicians in Medicine made in terms of [section 24](#) of the Act; or

- (ii) accepted by the board in terms of [section 25](#) of the Act and has passed an examination or other evaluation determined by the board;
- (c) submit the name of the approved facility to which he or she was allocated by the relevant health authority to undergo training as an intern and shall notify the board in writing in advance if he or she intends to change from that facility to another facility; and
- (d) pay the prescribed fee.

3. **Conditions of internship training**

- (1) Internship training commencing before **1 July 2004** shall be of not less than twelve months' duration and, where it is broken or interrupted, it shall consist of periods which, when added together, are not less than twelve months in total, including vacation leave not exceeding one month's duration per annum, and sick leave not exceeding one month's duration and shall comply with criteria laid down by the board from time to time.
- (2) For a person who is enrolled for a five year curriculum, internship training commencing after **30 June 2004** shall be of not less than twenty four months' duration and, where it is broken or interrupted, it shall consist of periods which, when added together, are not less than twenty four months in total, including vacation leave not exceeding one month's duration per annum and sick leave not exceeding two months' duration and shall comply with criteria laid down by the board from time to time.
- (3) For a person who is enrolled for a six year curriculum, internship training commencing **during the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2006** shall be of not less than twelve months' duration and, where it is broken or interrupted, it shall consist of periods which, when added together, are not less than twelve months in total, including vacation leave not exceeding one month's duration per annum and sick leave not exceeding two months' duration and shall comply with criteria laid down by the board from time to time.
- (4) Internship training commencing after **30 June 2006** shall be of not less than twenty four months' duration and, where it is broken or interrupted, it shall consist of periods which, when added together, are not less than twenty four months in total, including vacation leave not exceeding one month's duration per annum and sick leave not exceeding two months' duration and shall comply with criteria laid down by the board from time to time.
- (5) If a break or interruption in internship training, excluding leave referred to in subregulation (1), (2) or (3) as the case may be, exceeds a period of one year, such break or interruption to be recognised as part of completed internship training.
- (6) The period of twelve months of internship training referred to in subregulation (1) shall be completed within a period of two years from the date of having been registered in terms of [section 17](#) of the Act as an intern in medicine.
- (7) The period of twenty four months of internship training referred to in subregulation (2) or (3) shall be completed within a period of three years from the date of having been registered in terms of [section 17](#) of the Act as an intern in medicine.
- (8) If an intern does not complete his or her internship training within a period of two or three years, as the case may be, his or her registration in terms of [section 18](#) of the Act shall be

cancelled unless he or she provides the board with satisfactory reasons as to why his or her registration should not be cancelled.

- (9) (a) The training shall be undertaken by an intern in a facility approved by the board.
- (b) If a facility referred to in paragraph (a) is not available, the board may, at its discretion, accept alternative training, which in the board's opinion is equivalent to training at a facility approved by the board.
- (c) When accrediting a facility or alternative training, the board may stipulate that only a portion of an intern's training shall be undertaken thereat and the remainder shall be undertaken at another approved facility.
- (d) If internship training at an approved facility is regarded by the board for any reason to be inadequate or unsatisfactory, the board may withdraw its approval thereof, in which case the board shall inform any interns at the facility accordingly in writing and request such interns to undertake internship training at another approved facility for the remaining period.
- (10) Interns in medicine shall be subject to all the rules of professional conduct prescribed by the board for medical practitioners.
- (11) (a) Upon completion of internship training, an intern shall submit a duty certificate to the satisfaction of the board to certify that he or she has satisfactorily undertaken internship training as required by the board and such submission shall be a precondition for his or her registration as a medical practitioner to perform community service as prescribed in terms of [section 24A](#) of the Act.
- (b) The duty certificate referred to in paragraph (a) shall be issued by the head of an approved facility where an intern successfully undertook internship training, as the board may require.

4. Repeal

The regulations published under Government Notice Nos. R. 2271 of 3 December 1976 and R. 2272 of 3 December 1976, are hereby repealed.

(signed)
DR ME TSHABALALA-MSIMANG
MINISTER OF HEALTH