

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE SPECIALITIES AND SUBSPECIALITIES IN MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

Published under Government Notice R590 in *Government Gazette* 22420 of 29 June 2001 and amended by:

GN R1457	GG 27099	13/12/2004
GN R712	GG 30165	17/8/2007
GN R645	GG 35612	22/8/2012

The Minister of Health has, in terms of [section 35](#) read together with [section 61](#)(1)(f) 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](#)

#### [2. Recognition of specialities, subspecialities and related specialities](#)

#### [3.](#)

#### [4.](#)

#### [5.](#)

#### [6. Requirements for registration of a medical practitioner in the category independent practice \(specialist\)](#)

#### [7. Requirements for registration of a dentist in the category independent practice \(specialist\)](#)

#### [8. Requirements for registration of a foreign qualified medical practitioner or dentist as a specialist](#)

#### [9. Requirements for registration of a foreign qualified specialist on special merit](#)

#### [10. Conditions of registration in the category public service \(specialist\)](#)

#### [11. Requirements for registration of a subspeciality by a medical specialist](#)

#### [12. General](#)

#### [13. Registers of registrars and senior registrars](#)

#### [14. Conditions of practising as a specialist](#)

#### [15.](#)

#### [16.](#)

#### [17.](#)

#### [18.](#)

#### [19. Repeal](#)

### 1. Definitions

In these Regulations “**the Act**” means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and, unless inconsistent with the context -

“**board**” means the Medical and Dental Professional Board established by Government Notice No. R.75 of 16 January 1998;

“**dental specialist**” means a dentist who has been registered as a specialist in a speciality in dentistry in terms of these regulations;

“**general practitioner**” means a medical practitioner or a dentist not registered as a specialist;

“**medical specialist**” means a medical practitioner who has been registered as a specialist in a speciality or related specialities and a subspeciality (if any) in medicine in terms of these regulations;

“**related specialities**” means the disciplines in medicine recognised in subregulation (2) of regulation 5;

“**specialist**” means a medical practitioner or a dentist who has been registered as a specialist in a speciality or related specialities and subspeciality (if any) recognised in terms of these regulations and who confines his or her practice to such speciality or related specialities and subspeciality (if any);

“**speciality**” means one of the disciplines of medicine or dentistry recognised in regulation 2;

“**subspeciality**” means one of the subdivisions of a speciality recognised in regulation 3.

## 2. Recognition of specialities, subspecialities and related specialities

The following specialities are hereby recognised and prescribed in terms of subsection (2) of [section 35](#) of the Act:

### (1) MEDICINE

Speciality .....	Designation
Anaesthesiology .....	Anaesthesiologist
Cardiothoracic Surgery .....	Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Clinical Pharmacology.....	Clinical Pharmacology
Dermatology .....	Dermatologist
Diagnostic Radiology .....	Diagnostic Radiologist
Emergency Medicine .....	Specialist in Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine .....	Family Physician
Medical Genetics .....	Medical Geneticist
Medicine .....	Physician
Neurology .....	Neurologist
Neurosurgery .....	Neurosurgeon
Nuclear Medicine .....	Specialist in Nuclear Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynaecology .....	Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Occupational Medicine ..... Specialist in Occupational Medicine

Ophthalmology ..... Ophthalmologist

Orthopaedics ..... Orthopaedic Surgeon

Otorhinolaryngology ..... Otorhinolaryngologist

Paediatric Surgery .....

Paediatric Surgeon

Paediatrics ..... Paediatrician

Pathology (Anatomical) ..... Pathologist (Anatomical)

Pathology (Chemical) ..... Pathologist (Chemical)

Pathology (Clinical) .....

Pathologist (Clinical)

Pathology (Forensic) ..... Pathologist (Forensic)

Pathology (Haematological) ..... Pathologist (Haematological)

Pathology (Microbiological) ..... Pathologist (Microbiological)

Pathology (Virological) ..... Pathologist (Virological)

Physical Medicine ..... Specialist in Physical Medicine

Note: Physical Medicine will only be recognised as a speciality until such registrars who had been registered on 12 October 1998 for the specialist course in Physical Medicine at the University of Pretoria, completed their course and registered with the board as specialists in Physical Medicine, after which the relevant register will be closed.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery ..... Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon

Psychiatry ..... Psychiatrist

Public Health Medicine ..... Specialist in Public Health Medicine

Note: Persons designated as Specialists in Community Health at the date of operation hereof shall be designated as Specialists in Public Health Medicine from such date and may apply to the board to have their registration certificates replaced

Radiation Oncology ..... Radiation Oncologist

Surgery ..... Surgeon

Urology ..... Urologist

(2) DENTISTRY

Speciality .....	Designation
Community Dentistry .....	Specialist in Community Dentistry
Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery .....	Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgeon
Oral Medicine and Periodontics .....	Specialist in Oral Medicine and Periodontics
Oral pathology .....	Oral Pathologist
Orthodontics .....	Orthodontist
Prosthodontics .....	Prosthodontist

3. Subject to regulation 4, the following subspecialties are hereby recognised and prescribed in terms of subsection (2) of [section 35](#) of the Act:

<i>Subspeciality</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Allergology.....	Allergologist
Cardiology .....	Cardiologist
Child Psychiatry .....	Child Psychiatrist
Clinical Haematology .....	Clinical Haematologist
Critical Care .....	Specialist in Critical Care
Developmental Paediatrics .....	Developmental Paediatrician
Endocrinology .....	Endocrinologist
Forensic Psychiatry.....	Forensic Psychiatrist
Gastroenterology .....	Gastroenterologist
Geriatric Medicine .....	Geriatrician
Geriatric Psychiatry.....	Geriatric Psychiatry
Gynaecological Oncology .....	Specialist in Gynaecological Oncology
Infectious Diseases .....	Specialist in Infectious Diseases
Maternal and Foetal Medicine .....	Specialist in Maternal and Foetal Medicine

Medical Genetics ..... Medical Geneticist

Note: Medical Genetics will be recognized as a subspecialty in medicine only until all subspecialty trainees who are enrolled for a course in the subspecialty Medical Genetics on the date of publication hereof have completed their course and registered with the board as specialists in the subspecialty Medical Genetics, after which the relevant register shall be closed.

Medical Oncology ..... Medical Oncologist

Neonatology ..... Neonatologist

Nephrology ..... Nephrologist

Occupational Health ..... Specialist in Occupational Health

Note: Occupational Health will only be recognised as a subspecialty in medicine until all subspecialty trainees who are enrolled for a course in the subspecialty Occupational Health on the date of publication hereof have completed their course and registered with the board as specialists in the subspecialty Occupational Health, after which the relevant register shall be closed.

Paediatric Neurology ..... Paediatric Neurologist

Neuropsychiatry..... Neuropsychiatrist

Paediatric Surgery ..... Paediatric Surgeon

Note: Paediatric Surgery will be recognized as a subspecialty in medicine only until all subspecialty trainees who are enrolled for a course in the subspecialty Paediatric Surgery on the date of publication hereof have completed their course and registered with the board as specialists in the subspecialty Paediatric Surgery, after which the relevant register shall be closed.

Pulmonology ..... Pulmonologist

Reproductive Medicine .....Specialist in Reproductive Medicine

Rheumatology ..... Rheumatologist

Trauma Surgery ..... Trauma Surgeon

Vascular Surgery ..... Vascular Surgeon

[Reg. 3 amended by GN R1457/2004 and GN R712/2007]

4. A subspecialty referred to in regulation 3 and listed in column 1, shall be registrable only if the applicant has already been registered as a specialist in one of the basic specialities listed opposite such subspecialty in column 2:

*Registrable Subspecialty* ..... *Basic Speciality*

Column 1 ..... Column 2

Cardiology .....	Medicine Paediatrics
Child Psychiatry .....	Psychiatry
Clinical Haematology .....	Medicine Paediatrics Pathology (Haematological)
Critical Care .....	Anaesthesiology Cardiothoracic Surgery Medicine Neurosurgery Obstetrics and Gynaecology Paediatrics Surgery
Developmental Paediatrics .....	Paediatrics
Endocrinology .....	Medicine Paediatrics
Gastroenterology .....	Medicine Paediatrics Surgery
Geriatric Medicine .....	Medicine
Gynaecological Oncology .....	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Infectious Diseases .....	Medicine Paediatrics Pathology (Microbiological) Pathology (Virological)
Maternal and Foetal Medicine .....	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Medical Oncology .....	Medicine Paediatrics
Neonatology .....	Paediatrics
Nephrology .....	Medicine Paediatrics
Paediatric Neurology .....	Paediatrics
Pulmonology .....	Medicine Paediatrics
Reproductive Medicine .....	Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Rheumatology .....	Medicine Paediatrics
Trauma Surgery .....	Surgery
Vascular Surgery .....	Surgery

[Reg. 4 amended by GN R1457/2004 and GN R712/2007]

5. (1) Subject to subregulation (2), a medical practitioner or dentist may only be registered as a specialist in one speciality and one subspeciality, and no medical practitioner or dentist shall practise in more than one speciality or subspeciality simultaneously, except for the specialities which are deemed to be related specialities.

(2) A medical practitioner who has complied with the relevant requirements in regulation 6, may be registered as a specialist in one or more of the following related specialities and may practise therein:

Pathology (Anatomical)

Pathology (Chemical)

Pathology (Clinical)

Pathology (Forensic)

Pathology (Haematological)

Pathology (Microbiological)

Pathology (Virological)

**6. Requirements for registration of a medical practitioner in the category independent practice (specialist)**

(1) A medical practitioner who holds registration in the category independent practice (general practitioner) and who wishes to be registered in the category independent practice (specialist) in terms of the Act, shall -

(a) submit proof to the board that he or she has obtained a specialist qualification in the relevant speciality in medicine which is accredited by and the standard of which shall be acceptable to the board;

(b) submit proof to the board that he or she has fully complied with -

(i) the period of internship training prescribed in the regulations made under [section 61](#) (1)(e) of the Act; plus

(ii) a further twelve months' experience in any one or more of the disciplines of medicine which may include research; or

- (iii) after 1 July 1998, the period of community service prescribed in the regulations made under [section 24A](#) of the Act; and
  - (iv) the period of education and training prescribed in regulation 9(2) of these regulations.
- (c) submit his or her application for registration as a specialist to the board on an application form supplied by the board which shall be duly completed;
- (d) pay the prescribed registration fee.
- (2) Apart from the requirements in subregulation (1), the following requirements shall apply to the specialities listed:

(a) In the case of the specialities Anaesthesiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dermatology, Diagnostic Radiology, Medical Genetics, Medicine, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Nuclear Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Paediatrics, Paediatric Surgery, Physical Medicine, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Psychiatry, Radiation Oncology, and Urology, a person shall have obtained at least four years' satisfactory education and training as the holder of a board-approved post as registrar at a hospital, department or facility accredited by the board for specialist education and training.

[Para. (a) substituted by GN R712/2007]

(b) In the case of the speciality Community Health, a person shall have obtained at least four years' education and training as referred to in paragraph (a), in all the subjects of Community Health under the supervision of the department of community health of a higher education institution accredited by the board.

(c) In the case of the speciality Obstetrics and Gynaecology, education and training as referred to in paragraph (a), shall include a minimum period of twelve months' education and training in each of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in a teaching hospital.

(d) .....

[Para. (d) deleted by GN R1457/2004]

(e) In the case of the speciality Pathology (Anatomical), the said four years' education and training shall include the equivalent of six months' education and training in Cytology and, in addition, the applicant shall submit proof that he or she had been examined in Cytology to the satisfaction of the board.

(f) In the case of the speciality Pathology (Clinical), a person shall have obtained at least four years' education and training as referred to in paragraph (a) which shall have included at least six months in Pathology (Haematological) and at least nine months in each of Pathology (Anatomical), (Chemical) and, (Microbiological): Provided that education and training in, the speciality Pathology (Clinical) which commenced after 1 January 1980, shall have included at least twelve months of education and training in each of Pathology (Chemical), (Haematological) and (Microbiological).

(g) In the case of the speciality Pathology (Virological), the said education and training shall have included education and training in Immunology, general Medical Microbiology and Molecular Biology.



- (h) In the case of a person who was registered as a specialist in Pathology (Anatomical), (Chemical), (Forensic), (Haematological), (Microbiological) or (Virological) and who wishes also to be registered as a specialist in one of the related specialities, a further two years of such education and training and a specialist qualification referred to in paragraph (a) of subregulation (1), in the additional speciality shall be required.
  - (i) In the case of a person who was registered as a specialist in Pathology (Clinical) and who wishes also to be registered as a specialist in Pathology (Anatomical), a further three years of such education and training in Pathology (Anatomical) shall be required, but if such a person wishes to be registered as a specialist in one of the other related specialities, he or she shall have obtained at least two further years of such education and training in the speciality concerned and obtained the relevant specialist qualification.
  - (j)
    - (i) In the case of the speciality Psychiatry, education and training as referred to in paragraph (a), shall have included a minimum period of twelve months' education and training in a psychiatric hospital, of which at least six months shall have been in a psychiatric hospital which is also, a teaching hospital.
    - (ii) The provisions of paragraph (c) of subregulation (3) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in respect of recognition granted for education and training obtained at a psychiatric hospital, department or facility which was accredited as a satellite hospital, department or facility.
  - (k) In the case of the speciality Public Health Medicine, a person shall have obtained at least four years' education and training referred to in paragraph (a) in all the subjects of Public Health Medicine under the supervision of the Public Health Medicine department of a higher education institution accredited by the board.  
[Para. (k) inserted by GN R1457/2004]
  - (l) In the case of the speciality Family Medicine, a person shall have obtained at least four years' education and training, three years of which shall be in an accredited registrar's post.  
[Para. (l) added by GN R712/2007]
- (3) With reference to the education and training referred to in subregulation (2) -
- (a) education and training obtained-
    - (i) in South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if -
      - (aa) the applicant was registered as a medical practitioner in the category independent practice (general practitioner) in terms of the Act for the full duration thereof; and
      - (bb) the applicant's name appeared on the register of registrars (medical) which is kept in terms of regulation 13 hereof;
    - (ii) partly in any country other than South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if the person was registered as a medical practitioner with the relevant registering authority for the full duration thereof:

Provided that exemption from the requirement in subparagraph (ii) may be granted at the discretion of the board;

- (b) education and training obtained partly in any country other than South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if the applicant submits documentary proof, issued by the foreign university or other educational institution, to certify that -
    - (i) the hospital or hospitals at which the applicant was educated and trained, is/are or was/were a teaching hospital or hospitals of the faculty of medicine or medical school of that particular university or other educational institution;
    - (ii) that hospital or hospitals is/are or was/were approved and recognised to provide specialist education and training in the applicant's speciality;
    - (iii) the specified period which the applicant had spent at the hospital or hospitals in question, is regarded and recognised by that university or other educational institution as a period of education and training in the applicant's speciality;
  - (c) education and training of less than six months' duration in a hospital, department or facility shall not be recognised by the board, unless -
    - (i) the person concerned spent a period not exceeding three months at a hospital, department or facility approved by the relevant faculty of medicine or health sciences as part of the education and training of four years referred to in subregulation (2).,
    - (ii) the person concerned, with the permission of the relevant faculty of medicine or health sciences, alternated his or her education and training with education and training at the different faculties of medicine or health sciences in South Africa as holder of a post of registrar approved by the board in the discipline concerned: Provided that, in the case of the specialities in Pathology, the said period of six months shall be reduced to four months;
  - (d) education and training for such period as may be determined by the board during the accreditation process, shall be recognised if obtained as holder of a post of registrar at a hospital, department or facility which was accredited by the board as a satellite hospital, department or facility.
- (4) (a) The minimum duration of education and training to be spent by a person as holder of a post of registrar under the control of an academic teaching department in a teaching hospital, shall be as determined by the board during the accreditation process.
- (b) For the purposes of this regulation, an academic teaching department at a teaching hospital, means a department and hospital accredited as such by the board.
- (5) Credit, on a basis to be determined by resolution of the board from time to time, may be granted by the board for education and training obtained by a person as part-time holder of a post of registrar approved by the board.

- (6) Credit for a maximum of twelve months may be granted by the board as part of the four years' education and training prescribed by this regulation for -
- (a) education and training obtained in a discipline considered by the board to be related to the applicant's speciality;
  - (b) research considered by the board to be appropriate in the applicant's speciality or in a discipline considered by the board to be related to that person's speciality.

**7. Requirements for registration of a dentist in the category independent practice (specialist)**

- (1) A dentist who holds registration in the category independent practice (general practitioner) and who wishes to be registered in the category independent practice (specialist) in terms of the Act, shall -
- (a) submit proof to the board that he or she has obtained a specialist qualification in the relevant speciality in dentistry which is accredited by and the standard of which shall be acceptable to the board;
  - (b) submit proof to the board that a period of at least five years has elapsed since he or she obtained a basic qualification in dentistry which is prescribed in terms of [section 24](#) of the Act and which entitles him or her to registration as a dentist in terms of that section of the Act: Provided that, apart from the education and training referred to in subregulation (2), he or she has obtained at least a further twenty four months' experience in any one or more of the disciplines of dentistry which may include research, prior to commencing education and training in the relevant discipline: Provided further that the period of community service for dentists prescribed in regulations made under [section 24A](#) of the Act, after implementation, shall form part of the further twenty four months' of experience which is prescribed herein;
  - (c) submit his or her application for registration as a specialist to the board on an application form supplied by the board which shall be duly completed;
  - (d) pay the prescribed registration fee.
- (2) In addition to the requirements in subregulations (1), the following requirements shall apply to the specialities listed:
- (a) In the case of the specialities Community Dentistry, Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Periodontics, Orthodontics and Prosthodontics, a person shall have obtained at least three years' education and training as the holder of a post of registrar approved by the board at a hospital, department or facility accredited by the board for specialist education and training.
  - (b) In the case of the speciality Oral Pathology, a person shall have obtained at least four years' education and training, of, which at least two years shall have been in Pathology (Anatomical) at an academic teaching department of a teaching hospital accredited as such by the board.
- (3) With reference to the education and training referred to in subregulation (2) -
- (a) education and training obtained -

- (i) in South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if -
  - (aa) the applicant was registered as a dentist in the category independent practice (general practitioner) in terms of the Act for the full duration thereof; and
  - (bb) the applicant's name appeared on the register of registrars (dental) which is kept in terms of regulation 13 hereof;
- (ii) partly in any country other than South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if the person was registered as a dentist with the relevant registering authority for the full duration thereof:

Provided that exemption from the requirement in subparagraph (ii) may be granted at the discretion of the board;

- (b) education and training obtained partly in any country other than South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if the applicant submits documentary proof, issued by the foreign university or other educational institution, to certify that -
  - (i) the hospital or hospitals at which the applicant was educated and trained, is/are or was/were a teaching hospital or hospitals of the faculty of dentistry or dental school of that particular university or other educational institution;
  - (ii) that hospital or hospitals is/are or was/were approved and recognised to provide specialist education and training in the applicant's speciality;
  - (iii) the specified period which the applicant had spent at the hospital or hospitals in question, is regarded and recognised by that university or other educational institution as a period of education and training in the applicant's speciality;
- (c) education and training for such period as may be determined by the board during the accreditation process, shall be recognised if obtained as the holder of a post of registrar at a hospital, department or facility which was accredited by the board as a satellite hospital, department or facility;
- (d) credit, on a basis to be determined by resolution of the board from time to time, shall be granted by the board for education and training obtained by a person as part-time holder of a post of registrar approved by the board.

## **8. Requirements for registration of a foreign qualified medical practitioner or dentist as a specialist**

- (1) A medical practitioner or dentist who enjoys recognition as a specialist in any country other than South Africa on the basis of foreign qualifications -
  - (a) may apply to the board for -
    - (i) registration in the category independent practice (specialist); or
    - (ii) registration in the category public service (specialist); and

- (b) shall, for this purpose, submit his or her application for such registration to the board on an application form supplied by the board which shall be duly completed; and
  - (c) shall pay the prescribed registration fee.
- (2) Such foreign qualified medical practitioner or dentist who wishes to obtain registration in the category independent practice (specialist), may apply to the board for such registration only after having fully complied with all the requirements for registration in the category independent practice (general practitioner) as specified in the Regulations published in terms of [section 25](#) of the Act and having been registered as such.
- (3) Subsequent to having complied with the requirements referred to in subregulation (2), such medical practitioner or dentist shall submit documentary proof to the board -
- (a) that he or she had obtained a specialist qualification in a speciality recognised in terms of regulation 2 and that that qualification was accredited or otherwise recognised by and the standard thereof acceptable to the registering or other appropriate authority in medicine or dentistry in the country concerned;
  - (b) of the number of years that have elapsed since he or she had obtained his or her basic qualification in medicine or dentistry which shall not be less than -
    - (i) six years in the case of medicine; or
    - (ii) five years in the case of dentistry, except in the case of the speciality Oral Pathology, where it shall not be less than six years;  
[Para. (b) substituted by GN R1457/2004]
  - (c) of the nature and duration of the specialist education and training which the applicant was required to undergo in the country concerned;
  - (d) that the applicant had been registered as a medical practitioner or dentist with the relevant registering authority for the full duration of his or her specialist education and training:  
  
Provided that exemption from the requirement in paragraph (d) may be granted at the discretion of the board;
  - (e) issued by the foreign university or other educational institution concerned to certify that -
    - (i) the hospital or hospitals at which the applicant was educated and trained, is/are or was/were a teaching hospital or hospitals of the faculty of medicine or dentistry or medical or dental school of that particular university or other educational institution;
    - (ii) that hospital or hospitals is/are or was/were approved and recognised to provide specialist education and training in the applicant's speciality;

- (iii) the specified period which the applicant had spent at the hospital or hospitals in question, is regarded and recognised by that university or other educational institution as a period of education and training in the applicant's speciality.
- (4) Credit for a maximum of twelve months may be granted by the board as part of required specialist education and training for -
  - (a) education and training obtained in a discipline considered by the board to be related to the applicant's speciality;
  - (b) research considered by the board to be appropriate in the applicant's speciality or in a discipline considered by the board to be related to that person's speciality.
- (5) On receipt to the satisfaction of the board of the documentary proof referred to in subregulation (3), the applicant may be granted registration in the category independent practice (specialist) if such an applicant had first -
  - (a) obtained an accredited South African specialist qualification in his or her speciality; and
  - (b) if so required by the board, completed such period of specialist education and training in his or her speciality as the board may specify and authorize as the holder of an approved registrar post at an accredited academic teaching department in a teaching hospital, subject to the requirements specified in these Regulations: Provided that there was no application from a South African citizen for the registrar post in question.

[Para. (b) amended by GN R1457/2004]
- (6) A medical practitioner or dentist who wishes to obtain registration in the category public service (specialist), may apply to the board for registration in that category only after having fully complied with all the requirements for registration in the category public service (general practitioner) as specified in the Regulations published in terms of [section 25](#) of the Act and having been registered as such.
- (7) Subsequent to having complied with the requirements referred to in subregulation (6), such medical practitioner or dentist shall submit the documentary proof referred to in subregulation (3).
- (8) Should the board, on receipt of such documentary proof, agree to consider such an application, the applicant may be granted permission to sit for the examination in his or her speciality prescribed in terms of [section 35](#)(1 B) of the Act and -
  - (a) should the applicant pass that examination, he or she may be granted registration in the category public service (specialist); but
  - (b) should the applicant fail the examination, he or she may -
    - (i) be afforded the opportunity to have his or her competence in the speciality reassessed at a future examination;
    - (ii) be afforded such opportunity to be re-assessed only once.

(9) An applicant who failed the examination in his or her speciality prescribed in terms of subregulation (8), may wish his or her competence to be assessed in the domain of his or her speciality

(a) at the exit level of a postgraduate diploma;

(b) by an examination approved by the board; and

should such an applicant pass such an examination, he or she shall confine his or her practice to the scope of practice for which he or she was assessed, while retaining his or her registration in the category public service (general practitioner).

(10) A medical practitioner or dentist who enjoys recognition as a specialist in any country other than the Republic of South Africa on the basis of foreign qualifications in a discipline in medicine or dentistry recognised in that country as a speciality, but not so recognised in either regulation 2 or 3, may apply to the board for registration in the category public service (specialist).

[Subreg. (10) inserted by GN R1457/2004]

(11) An application contemplated in subregulation (10) shall -

(a) be submitted to the board on an application form supplied by the board for such purpose;

(b) be accompanied by the documentary proofs referred to in subregulation (3); and

(c) accompanied by the prescribed registration fee.

[Subreg. (11) inserted by GN R1457/2004]

(12) Upon receipt of an application referred to in subregulation (11), the board -

(a) shall determine whether the applicant qualifies in a discipline which, at the sole discretion of the board, may be regarded as a discipline of medicine or dentistry; and

(b) shall satisfy itself that the applicant achieved a level of knowledge, experience and competence in that discipline which would qualify him or her at a level comparable to that of specialists qualified in the Republic of South Africa.

[Subreg. (12) inserted by GN R1457/2004]

(13) At the request of a higher education or research institution, the board may consider an application by a medical practitioner or dentist referred to in subregulation (10) for registration in the category education in the same manner as specified in subregulations (10) and (11), and may grant registration to such an applicant as a specialist in the category education.

[Subreg. (13) inserted by GN R1457/2004]

## **9. Requirements for registration of a foreign qualified specialist on special merit**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of regulation 8, the board may consider an application for registration of a foreign qualified specialist on special merit to enhance and cross-fertilise professional practice, education and training in South Africa.

- (2) In terms of subregulation (1), the board may, in exceptional circumstances and at the request of higher education or research institutions, consider such an application for registration in the category education from an applicant who submits proof to the board of -
- (a) being the holder of a specialist qualification in medicine or dentistry in his or her country;
  - (b) being the holder of a certificate of status issued by the registration authority in the country concerned;
  - (c) enjoying international peer-group recognition in his or her speciality; and
  - (d) being able to practise in his or her speciality at a level where there exists no doubt with the board that he or she is fully competent to practise in the relevant speciality of medicine or dentistry in South Africa as holder of registration in the category education.

[Subreg. (2) amended by GN R1457/2004]

- (3) The following criteria shall apply when considering an application for registration in terms of subregulation (2), namely that -
- (a) the application for registration by such an expert specialist from abroad shall be managed appropriately by the board's relevant subcommittee;
  - (b) such an application shall be agreed to only when the approved criteria have been met;
  - (c) each application shall be considered on its own merits;
  - (d) the relevant subcommittee and its staff shall be acknowledged as appropriately qualified and experienced to judge the merits of such an application;
  - (e) such an applicant should unquestionably be an expert at an international level as judged, for instance, by -
    - (i) qualifications;
    - (ii) experience;
    - (iii) professional publications or presentations;
    - (iv) other possible contributions to his or her speciality;
    - (v) referee reports; or
    - (vi) the recommendations submitted by the appropriate specialist association or other relevant peer group.

- (4) An applicant whose application for registration under this regulation is approved, shall be granted registration in the category education only.

[Subreg. (4) amended by GN R1457/2004]

## **10. Conditions of registration in the category public service (specialist)**



Registration in the category public service (specialist) shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Such a specialist shall practise in his or her speciality in any public institution, irrespective of locality.
- (2) Continuation of registration in the category public service (specialist) shall be subject to -
  - (a) the conditions of practising as a specialist specified in regulations 14 to 18 hereof; and
  - (b) the requirements of continuing professional development as specified in rules made under [section 26](#) of the Act.
- (3) Practitioners registered as general practitioners in the public service shall be allowed to do the training for specialists in family medicine and on completion of their studies be registered as specialists: Public Service (Family Medicine).  
[Subreg. (3) added by GN R712/2007]

#### **11. Requirements for registration of a subspeciality by a medical specialist**

- (1) A medical specialist who wishes to register in a subspeciality with the board,
  - (a) submit proof to the board that he or she, prior to commencing with education and training in the relevant subspeciality, complied with all the requirements for registration as a specialist in the basic or one of the basic specialities listed against the relevant subspeciality in regulation 4 and that he or she had been registered as a specialist in that speciality;
  - (b) after 1 January 2002, submit proof to the board that he or she passed an evaluation in the relevant subspeciality which had been approved by the board;  
[Para. (b) amended by GN R1457/2004]
  - (c) submit a certificate to the board, issued by the relevant faculty of medicine or health sciences in South Africa, to certify that -
    - (i) the applicant obtained education and training in the relevant subspeciality of at least two years as the holder of a post of subspeciality trainee approved by the board under control of a unit in a teaching hospital which had been accredited by the board as a teaching unit in the said subspeciality;  
[Subpara. (i) amended by GN R1457/2004]
    - (ii) in the case of the subspeciality Clinical Haematology, the applicant shall -
      - (aa) complete four years of education and training as a registrar in Pathology (Haematological) and then two years of such education and training in Medicine or Paediatrics as the holder of a post of senior registrar approved by the board under control of a unit in a teaching hospital which had been accredited by the board as a teaching unit in the said subspeciality; or

- (bb) complete four years of education and training as a registrar in Medicine or Paediatrics and then two years of such education and training in Pathology (Haematological) as the holder of a post of senior registrar approved by the board under control of a unit in a teaching hospital which had been accredited by the board as a teaching unit in the said subspeciality;
  - (d) submit his or her application for registration in a subspeciality to the board on an application form supplied by the board which shall be duly completed;
  - (e) pay the prescribed registration fee.
- (2) With reference to the education and training referred to in subregulation (1) -
- (a) education and training obtained -
    - (i) in South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if -
      - (aa) the applicant was registered as a medical practitioner in terms of the Act in either the category independent practice (general practitioner) or independent practice (specialist) for the full duration thereof; and
      - (bb) the applicant's name appeared on the register of subspeciality trainees which is kept in terms of regulation 13 hereof;
- [Item (bb) amended by GN R1457/2004]
- (ii) wholly or partly in any country other than South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if the person was registered as a medical practitioner with the relevant registering authority for the full duration thereof:
- Provided that exemption from the requirement in subparagraph (ii) may be granted at the discretion of the board;
- (b) education and training obtained wholly or partly in any country other than South Africa, shall be recognised by the board only if the applicant submits documentary proof, issued by the foreign university or other educational institution, to certify that -
    - (i) the hospital or hospitals at which the applicant was educated and trained, is/are or was/were a teaching hospital or hospitals of the faculty of medicine or medical school of that particular university or other educational institution;
    - (ii) that hospital or hospitals is/are or was/were approved and recognised to provide education and training in the applicant's subspeciality;
    - (iii) the specified period which the applicant had spent at the hospital or hospitals in question, is regarded and recognised by that university or other educational institution as a period of education and training in the applicant's subspeciality.
- (3) Education and training for a maximum of twelve months shall be recognised by the board if obtained in South Africa as the holder of a post of senior registrar approved by the board in a teaching unit which is accredited by the board as a satellite teaching unit in the relevant subspeciality.

- (4) Credit, on a basis to be determined by resolution of the board from time to time, shall be granted by the board for education and training obtained by a person as part-time holder of a post of subspeciality trainee approved by the board.

[Subreg. (4) amended by GN R1457/2004]

## 12. General

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these regulations, the relevant subcommittee, subject to approval by the board, may register the speciality or subspeciality of a medical practitioner or dentist who complies substantially with the requirements of these regulations and who, in the opinion of the board, is competent to practise in such a speciality or subspeciality, and the applicant shall, at the request of the board, submit the documentary proof which the board determines in support of his or her application.

## 13. Registers of registrars and senior registrars

- (1) A register under [section 18](#) of the Act shall be established and kept of all persons who hold a board approved post of registrar in medicine and dentistry and who are enrolled for a course of education and training in a recognised speciality as specified in these regulations, and registration in that register shall be a prerequisite for -

- (a) registration as a medical practitioner in the category independent practice (specialist);
- (b) registration as a dentist in the category independent practice (specialist).

- (2) A register under [section 18](#) of the Act shall also be established and kept of all persons who hold a board approved clinical post, to be identified for the purpose of registration in such register as that of a subspeciality trainee, and who are enrolled for a course of education and training in a recognised subspeciality in medicine as specified in these regulations, and registration in that register shall be a prerequisite for registration of a subspeciality by a medical practitioner holding registration in the category independent practice (specialist).

[Subreg. (2) amended by GN R1457/2004]

- (3) The details to be recorded in the register of registrars and the register of subspeciality trainees shall be as specified by the board from time to time and the name of a person so registered shall be removed from such register -

- (a) on his or her registration as a specialist or in a subspeciality in terms of these regulations;
- (b) on his or her completion of the prescribed period of such education and training and submission by the relevant university or other examining body of a certificate to that effect;
- (c) on submission to the board of confirmation acceptable to the registrar that a registered registrar or subspeciality trainee discontinued his or her course of prescribed education and training.

[Subreg. (3) amended by GN R1457/2004]

## 14. Conditions of practising as a specialist

- (1) A medical practitioner or a dentist who holds registration as a specialist in terms of the

Act, shall -

- (a) in the case of a speciality, confine his or her practice to the speciality or related specialities in which he or she is registered;
- (b) in the case of a subspeciality, confine his or her practice mainly to the subspeciality in which he or she is registered,

and the retention of his or her registration as a specialist in the relevant speciality, related specialities or subspeciality shall be contingent on whether he or she so confines his or her practice.

- (2) A specialist may charge fees for examinations or procedures which usually pertain to some other speciality only if such examinations or procedures are also recognised in his or her speciality, related specialities or subspeciality as generally accepted practice: Provided that such fees shall not be higher than those charged by general practitioners for the same examinations or procedures and that such examinations or procedures shall be carried out only for his or her *bona fide* patients.

**15.** A specialist shall not take over a patient from any other practitioner, whether he or she be a specialist or a general practitioner, except with the consent of the practitioner concerned, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

**16.** (1) A specialist shall not do domiciliary visiting except when requested to do so by or with the consent of a general practitioner.

- (2) Subregulation (1) shall not apply in the case where domiciliary visiting by a specialist is required in the course of the performance of community health services rendered by a health authority.

**17.** A specialist may treat any person who comes to him or her direct for consultation.

**18.** A specialist who is consulted by a patient or who treats a patient, shall take all reasonable steps to ensure collaboration with the patient's general practitioner.

**19. Repeal**

The regulations published under Government Notice No. R.40 of 11 January 1991, as amended by Government Notices Nos. R.2250 of 20 September 1991, R.380 of 7 February 1992, R.2779 of 2 October 1992, R.1257 of 15 July 1994, R.67 of 17 January 1997 and R.69 of 17 January 1997 are hereby repealed.