

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF RADIOGRAPHY

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GN R820	RG 2779	20/4/79
GN R2556	GG 13588	25/10/91
GN R1018	GG 18170	1/8/97

The Minister of Health, on the recommendation of the South African Medical and Dental Council, hereby makes the following regulations in terms of [section 33](#) (1) of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974):

The following acts are hereby specified as acts which shall for the purposes of the Act be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of radiography.

### 1. DIAGNOSTIC

- (1) *Imaging* - by which is understood the production and recording of images of anatomical regions and physiological functions by means of radiation media and other non-ionising modalities for diagnostic purposes.

[Subreg. (1) amended by GN R1018/97]

The following diagnostic procedures are considered as falling in this category:

- (a) *X-rays* - i.e. all diagnostic X-ray procedures performed at the request of a registered medical practitioner or dentist.

[Para. (a) amended by GN R1018/97]

- (b) .....

[Para. (b) deleted by GN R2556/91]

- (c) *Ultrasonic radiation* - i.e. all ultrasonic imaging procedures performed at the request of a medical practitioner.

- (d) *Heat waves* - i.e. all the thermographic imaging procedures performed at the request of a medical practitioner.

- (e) *Magnetic resonance imaging* - performed at the request of a registered medical practitioner or dentist.

[Para. (e) inserted by GN R1018/97]

- (2) *Radiation protection* - by which is understood the application of radiation protection measures to patients, staff and general public in accordance with rules and

recommendations laid down by the International Committee for Radiological Protection and the Department of Health.

[Subreg. (2) amended by GN R1018/97]

- (3) *Medicine control* - by which is understood assistance to a radiologist or medical practitioner in the control and administration of contrast media or medicines as required for such diagnostic procedures.
- (4) *Patient care* - by which is understood all aspects of patient care associated with the practice of radiography.  
[Subreg. (4) amended by GN R1018/97]
- (5) *Use of equipment* - by which is understood the use and care of such equipment and accessories as may be required to carry out these diagnostic procedures.
- (6) *Quality assurance* - by which is understood assistance with the quality control of equipment, accessories and procedures associated with the practice of radiography.  
[Subreg. (6) inserted by GN R1018/97]
- (7) *Design of imaging departments and imaging installations* - by which is understood assistance in the planning and design of imaging departments and installations.  
[Subreg. (7) inserted by GN R1018/97]

## **2. THERAPEUTIC**

- (1) *Administration of treatment.*

To administer treatment to patients accurately using ionizing radiation, according to the prescription of the radiotherapist.

- (2) *Care of patients.*

- (a) To assist the radiotherapist or medical practitioner in medical procedures associated with the practice of radiotherapy and to have at hand all such medicines and equipment as are prescribed by the radiotherapist or medical practitioner,
- (b) To care for the patient during localisation, planning and therapeutic procedures; to note any adverse change in the patient's condition and to report this to the radiotherapist or medical practitioner immediately; to advise and instruct the patient regarding skin care, diet and general health, in accordance with the instructions of the radiotherapist or medical practitioner.

- (3) *Localisation of tumours and treatment planning.*

To assist the radiotherapist in procedures for the localisation of tumours and surrounding tissues; to carry out planning of patient treatments under the direction of the radiotherapist.

(4) *Therapeutic radioactive isotopes.*

To assist in the storage, handling and administration of therapeutic radioactive isotopes (sealed and unsealed), under the direction of the radiotherapist.

(5) *Radiation protection.*

To ensure that the relevant sections of the National Code of Practice governing the Medical Uses of Ionizing Radiation are observed.

(6) *Equipment.*

(a) To ensure to the best of his/her knowledge that equipment in his/her care is in good mechanical order and to report any suspected malfunction to the holder of the licence or his/her deputy.

(b) To put forward suggestions regarding modifications and additions to existing equipment, the purchase, design or construction of new equipment, and the design or construction of new equipment, and the design and lay-out of new or altered premises.

(7) *Keeping of patients' records.*

To keep accurate records of procedures and treatments for the purpose of medical, statistical and legal requirements.

(8) *Other uses of ionizing radiation.*

To utilise ionizing radiation for irradiating any material for clinical or research purposes, under the direction of the radiotherapist.

(9) *Quality assurance.*

To assist with quality control of accessories, techniques and procedures associated with the practice of radiotherapy, and to assist medical physicists in the quality control of equipment associated with the practice of radiotherapy.

[Subreg. (9) inserted by GN R1018/97]

### **3. NUCLEAR MEDICINE**

(1) *Imaging* - By which is understood the production and recording of images of anatomical regions physiological functions by means of radiation media for diagnostic purposes.

The following diagnostic procedures are considered to fall into this category:

- (a) *Gamma rays* - i.e. all radionuclide imaging procedures performed at the request of a medical practitioner and carried out under the supervision of the holder of the authority or a local committee authorised by the Atomic Energy Board to use radionuclides in medical practice.
  - (b) *Ultrasonic radiation* - ie. diagnostic ultrasound procedures in so far as they are necessary to complement item (a) above.
  - (c) *Infra-red radiation* - ie. thermographic procedures in so far as they are necessary to complement item (a) above.
- (2) *Non-imaging procedures* - By which is understood all *in vitro* and *in vivo* techniques which are used for the elucidation of physiological functions or biochemical processes by means of radionuclides and which are not included in category (1).

In this instance, radionuclides include both gamma and beta emitters.

- (3) *Radiation protection* - By which is understood the application of radiation protection measures to patients, staff and the general public in accordance with the rules and recommendations laid down by the International Committee for Radiological Protection and the Department of Health.  
 [Subreg. (3) amended by GN R1018/97]
- (4) *Medicine control* - By which is understood assistance to medical practitioners in possession of a licence (authority) for the medical use of radionuclides in the control and administration of radionuclides, contrast media or medicines as required for the procedures of nuclear medicine.
- (5) *Patient care* - By which is understood assistance to a medical practitioner in medical procedures associated with the practice of nuclear medicine.
- (6) *Use of equipment* - By which is understood the use and care of such equipment and accessories as may be required to carry out these diagnostic procedures.
- (7) *Therapeutic radioactive nuclides* - To assist in the storage, handling and administration of therapeutic nuclides (sealed and unsealed), under the direction of the radiotherapist.
- (8) *Other uses of ionising radiation* - To utilise ionising radiation from the above sources for irradiating any material for clinical or research purposes under the direction of the holder of the authority or a local committee authorised by the Department of Health to use radionuclides in medical practice.  
 [Subreg. (8) amended by GN R1018/97]
- (9) *Quality assurance* - by which is understood assistance with quality control of accessories, techniques and procedures associated with the practice of nuclear

medicine and assisting medical physicists in the quality control of equipment associated with the practice of nuclear medicine.

[Subreg. (9) inserted by GN R1018/97]

[Reg. 3 added by GN R820/79]

#### **4. ULTRASOUND**

- (1) *Imaging* - by which is understood all ultrasound procedures for the production and recording of images of anatomical regions and physiological functions by means of ultrasound for diagnostic purposes.
- (2) *Patient care* - by which is understood assistance in ultrasound procedures associated with the practice of ultrasound.
- (3) *Medical control* - by which is understood assistance to a medical practitioner in the control and administration of pharmacological solutions as required for ultrasound procedures.
- (4) *Use of equipment* - by which is understood the use and care of such equipment and accessories as may be required to carry out ultrasound procedures.
- (5) *Keeping of patients' records* - by which is understood the keeping of accurate records or recorded data for the purpose of medical, statistical and legal requirements.
- (6) *Quality assurance* - by which is understood assistance with quality control of accessories, techniques and procedures associated with the practice of ultrasound.

[Reg. 4 inserted by GN R1018/97]