

The process of managing Impaired Students and Practitioner

- a. Complaints regarding alleged impairment are lodged with the Health Committee Secretariat;
 - b. 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 (No. 56 of 1974) is conducted;
 - c. The practitioner is informed of the complaint and is requested to undergo an assessment to determine if he/she is impaired or not. One specialist is appointed by the Committee another by the practitioner concerned;
 - d. The above mentioned specialists are given reporting guidelines for the assessment and assessment reports are submitted to the Committee for consideration;
 - e. Should the Committee determine that impairment exists; the practitioner will be declared impaired in terms of section 51 of the Health Professions Act (Act No. 56 of 1974). The impairment is then processed on the HPCSA administration system against the practitioners name;
 - f. The Committee would then impose upon the practitioner condition (supervision, prescription restriction, limited scope of practice) to practice;
 - g. The Committee monitors and enforces compliance by the practitioner;
 - h. If impairment does not exist, the Committee dismisses the case and the practitioner is informed accordingly;
 - i. Should the practitioner refuse to subject himself/herself to the informal investigation, the Committee will refer the case to HPCSA Legal Department for a formal investigation in terms of Section 51 of the Health Professions Act; and
 - j. 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, his/her name will be suspended from the register of health practitioners until such time that the practitioner complies.
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