

Dear Valued Practitioner

The **Medical and Dental Professions Board** of the Health Professions Council of South Africa notes with concern instances where Medical Practitioners are employing Clinical Associates to operate in their private practices. The Board wish to state that the Clinical Associates are not permitted to work independently in private practices, on behalf of General Practitioners or perform locum work for General Practitioners.

The Conditions of practice from the regulations defining the ***Scope of Practice of Clinical Associates promulgated on 11 November 2016*** state that:

1. *A clinical associate may not conduct an independent private practice.*
2. *A clinical associate may not act as a locum tenens for a medical practitioner.*
3. *The acts referred to in Regulation 2 must be performed under the supervision of a medical practitioner identified by the service in which the clinical associate is working and must be available to the clinical associate at all times.*
4. *A clinical associate who has practised as a clinical associate for a continuous period of less than two years must perform the acts referred to in Regulation 2 under the continuous and hands-on supervision of a medical practitioner, and in the clinical setting alongside the supervising medical practitioner.*
5. *A clinical associate who has practised as a clinical associate for a continuous period of two to four years must perform the acts referred to in Regulation 2 and report, in person, to the clinical associate's supervisor after each task: Provided that a clinical associate referred to in this sub-regulation must practise in the same component of a health facility as the supervising medical practitioner who must approve and countersign all the clinical associate's management plans or decisions.*
6. *A clinical associate who has practised as a clinical associate for a continuous period of five or more years may perform acts referred to*

in Regulation 2 independently on a day-to-day basis and does not have to report to the supervising medical practitioner but must have personal or verbal access to the supervising medical practitioner's support when necessary.

- 7. A clinical associate must be identified by the title of Clinical Associate (abbreviation: Clin A) and must always be identifiable as such by patients and co-workers.*

Practitioners requiring additional guidance from Council can submit their queries to Professionalpractice@hpcsa.co.za.

Yours sincerely

The HPCSA Team



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