

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 private practices. Although this correspondence is not meant to implicate yourself as a Medical Practitioner of such transgressions, the Board still deems it important to remind Medical Practitioners that Clinical Associates are not permitted to work independently in private practices on behalf of General Practitioners or perform locum work for General Practitioners.

Extract from the ***Generic Ethical and Professional Rules of the Health Professions Council of South Africa:***

Covering: 9. (1) A practitioner shall be employed as a professional assistant or locum tenens, or in any other contractual capacity and, in the case of locum tenens for a period not exceeding six months, only a person –

- (a) who is registered under the Act to practise in independent practice;*
- (b) whose name currently appears on the register kept by the Registrar in terms of Section 18 of the Act; and*
- (c) who is not suspended from practising his or her profession.*

Practitioners shall note that if a complaint is lodged against a Clinical Associate, who work independently or perform locum work, the General Practitioner who employed the Clinical Associate will be held liable for unprofessional conduct in terms of the **Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974)**.

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

Yours sincerely

The HPCSA Team



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