



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR RADIOGRAPHY AND
CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY**

**URGENT NOTICE REGARDING THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL BOARD
EXAMINATION: ULTRASOUND (SUPERVISED PRACTICE)**

It has come to the attention of the RCT Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology (the Board) that there may be certain unethical/unprofessional practices taking place regarding the applications for the Special Board Examination: Ultrasound (Supervised Practice). Allowing oneself to be approached randomly by a radiographer, or a radiographer randomly approaching a sonographer or radiologist, to now be an interim supervisor for the purposes of being accepted for the Special Board Examination is one example of unethical practice.

The Board wishes to remind applicants that all information submitted on the application form must be true, accurate and correct. Failing this, the application will be rejected, and the application fee will be forfeited. The Board will be scrutinising all applications. Any evidence of false information, fraud or corruption of any kind will be deemed to be unprofessional conduct and the Board will take appropriate disciplinary action against such applicants.

All radiographers are obligated by the Health Professions Act, 1974, to register with the HPCSA in the relevant category and field of practice. Failure to do so constitutes a criminal offence in respect of which disciplinary action may take place in terms of [Chapter IV](#) of the Act. This once-off Special Board Examination (Supervised Practice) is therefore, being offered for the purposes of regulating the practice of Ultrasound under certain conditions. It is **not** open to all radiographers who aspire to perform Ultrasound.

Applications will **only** be considered from those who meet **ALL** the following criteria:

- Diagnostic radiographers who qualified **AFTER** 31 December 1993; **AND**
- are **currently** performing ultrasound acts as part of their employment contract or job description without having obtained the RCT Board approved formal US qualification. (Employment must be verified on the application form and Form 184 - US Supervised Practice. This will be checked); **AND**
- **commenced practicing US** only during the period 1 Jan 1994 and 31 December 2019 (this must be verified on the application form); **AND**
- are not deemed to be registered with HPCSA in the category of US; **AND**
- have received some type of short course, informal or in-house training between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 2019; (this includes those with Ultrasound short courses obtained in another country).

Employment must be in a state hospital, private radiologist owned practice, or a private sonographer owned practice.

Application forms must contain true, verifiable information in order to be considered by the Board. The application deadline has been extended to **31 August 2010**.

NOTE:

Diagnostic Radiographers who do NOT apply for the Ultrasound Special Board Examination on or before 31 August 2020 and are still practicing ultrasound without a Board approved qualification will be required to cease practicing Ultrasound immediately – i.e. **by 1 September 2020**.

Further details are available on the RCT Board website under the section for “Examinations” – the **FAQs** contain helpful information.

APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION TIMELINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The application deadline for the Special Board examination is **31 August 2020**. No applications will be considered after this date.

The Special Board Examination is scheduled for the end of **March 2021**.

DEFINITIONS:

According to the *Health Professions Act, 1974*, and *Ethical Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974* the following words and expressions are defined as follows:

“Independent practice” - means the practising of a health profession by a registered health practitioner without supervision of another health practitioner.

“Supervised practice” - means practising a health profession under the supervision of an appropriately qualified health practitioner at an approved facility as determined by the board.

“To be “supervised” - means to perform professional acts that are overseen by a supervising practitioner who by supervising, accepts liability for the acts of the supervised practitioner and ensures the required standard of care of the patient.

Supervision in the context of the category: Ultrasound (Supervised Practice) – means performing under the supervision of a practitioner who is physically on site in the department at the time of the clinical encounter to oversee and accept liability for the professional acts of the radiographer who registers in the category: Ultrasound (Supervised Practice).

Such radiographers may not perform Ultrasound acts without being supervised by a practitioner with the appropriate qualification that is approved by the Board – in this case the supervisor must be a registered sonographer or a radiologist.