



Newsletter for Speech Language and Hearing Professions (SLH) Board



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HPCSA online renewal and payment portal

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Importance of practitioner and student being registered with HPCSA

Registration

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CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

The Professional Board of Speech, Language and Hearing has been active in working towards fulfilling its mandate of guiding the profession and protecting the public. In our role of guiding the profession, we are in the process of finalising guidelines that various task teams have been working on. This includes the Guideline for Mobile Practice, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention and Ototoxicity. The task teams for Language and Culture for both Audiology and Speech therapy have been appointed and members are already engaged in rigorous research, discussion and debate.

We have also appointed a task team to develop guidelines on Telepractice which is rapidly emerging as growing field within the practice of our profession. The Board has started rolling out its stakeholder engagement plan. We hosted a successful meeting with higher educational institutions with the aim of building a collaborative relationship. The Board continues to protect the public by ensuring that fourth year students meet its requirements before registering for completion of community service. We also monitor transformation of the student demographics by reviewing throughput of all universities on an annual basis.



We are very excited by the online renewal system this year and acknowledge that while there were issues in the first phase of the roll-out, this can only be improved upon.

The Board co-opted Professor Shajila Singh and Ms Deshni Naidu to serve on the Board structures until the Minister of Health appoints permanent members to fill these vacancies. I would like to thank the secretariat, members of the Board and all members of the profession who assist in allowing us to achieve our goals.

Chairperson of Speech Language and Hearing Professions Board

Dr Sadna Balton

WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM A PRACTITIONER WHO OFFERS SUPERVISED PRACTICE?

The Board wishes to advise any practitioner wishing to return to practice after a period of three years or more, that they will be required to write the Board exam and may be required to work under supervision for a designated period of time (usually six months). It is the practitioner's responsibility to find another practitioner who is willing to take up this role. The Board wishes to advise supervising practitioners that there are certain criteria which the Board expects them to adhere to.

Supervising practitioners are required to

- Be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) on the same register as the supervised practitioner,
- Be Continuous Professional Development (CPD) compliant,
- Have no pending professional conduct case against him/her.

Furthermore, practitioners under supervision are not allowed to practice their profession without the HPCSA registration in the Supervised Category in terms of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974.



HPCSA ONLINE RENEWAL AND PAYMENT PORTAL

HPCSA's Online Renewal of Registration is an interactive system, applying intelligence to the Renewal and payment process for the Health Professions of South Africa. The system guides the user to create an account, login, update their profile, renew the registration and complete the process by making the payment for their yearly renewal of annual fees.

The system is intuitive and usable. To assist you as the user, an easy to follow guide has been created with real graphics and an easy to use interactive index.

The process starts with creating an account and is finalised when a payment is made. The user can also generate a practicing card, view the HPCSA documents as well as invoices and statements. Please see the website.

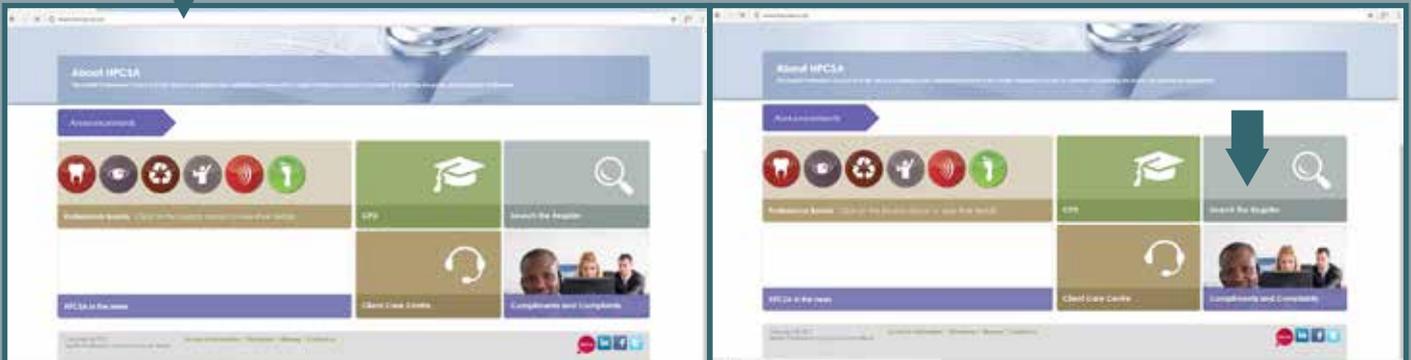
<https://practitionersso.hpcsa.co.za/identity/login?signin=48caed057a366059ccf477320da7691a>



REGISTRATION

How to check if you are on the register or not:

Go to the landing page of the HPCSA: www.hpcsa.co.za



Scroll down to the bottom of the page until you get to “Search the Register” (Magnifying glass):

- Click on the magnifying glass (this may take some time, please WAIT)
- Next screen: Select search criteria and fill in the required field
- Click “Search” to find your name.
- Next screen: Click on “VIEW” to see the details of your search. Read through the results. It stipulates if you are an active member or removed from the register.

Remuneration Based Commission

In terms of the Health Professions Council of South Africa general ethical guidelines booklet 2 for the healthcare professionals, being registered as a healthcare professional with the HPCSA confers on the practitioners the right and privilege to practice the professions. Correspondingly, practitioners have moral or ethical duties to others and society, these said duties are generally in keeping with the Constitution of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996) and the obligations imposed on healthcare practitioners by law. Practice as a healthcare professional is based on a relationship of mutual trust between patients and healthcare practitioners. In the course of their professional work healthcare practitioners are required to subscribe to certain rules of conduct. To this end, the HPCSA has formulated a set of rules regarding professional conduct against which complaints of professional misconduct will be evaluated. The Professional Board for the Speech, Language and Hearing Professions considers that remuneration on a commission basis could lead to exploitation of an employee as it entices practitioners to over-service and overcharge. The Professional Board for Speech, Language and Hearing Professions therefore believes that it does have legal grounds to strongly discourage this practice.

Personal Sound Amplifier Products (PSAP)

In response to queries regarding the sale of PSAP's to the general public at outlets other than an audiology or hearing aid acoustician's practice, the Professional Board for the Speech, Language and Hearing Professions wishes to inform professionals that it is against this practice. The Board will be inviting stakeholders to contribute to a discussion on how this matter should be taken further.

WHO MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE HPCSA?

In terms of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974, the following categories must be registered on the Professional Board for the Speech, Language, and Hearing Professions.

- Students
- Community Service practitioners
- Practitioners in a Supervised Practice
- Practitioners practising their profession
- Faculty staff at training institutions
- Volunteers



STATEMENT TO CLARIFY ISSUES OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF AUDIOLOGY:

There are areas of practice that were previously not included in the undergraduate education and training, now that these are being offered (for example vestibular assessment and rehabilitation) or will be offered (for example Cochlear implant). A decision was made after consultation with members of the profession. Such a decision requires that post-graduate or additional training and education would have to be undertaken prior to practitioners being able to render a service to patients who require vestibular assessment and rehabilitation therapy. Each university wishing to offer additional education and training is required to submit a detailed curriculum (with objectives, teaching and learning methodology, and assessments that will form the basis for deciding whether a practitioner is competent in the particular area,) to the Education, Training and Registration Committee of the Board for accreditation before the course may be offered. Details of the steps required should individuals wish to be recognised as either trainers in such courses; or clinicians working in the area were given. Clinicians were offered a choice of either completing an accredited training programme or to apply for their CV to be reviewed.

Prompted by the South African universities currently offering education and training in profession-specific disciplines (i.e. Audiology only, rather than Speech Therapy and Audiology) the HPCSA has resolved that in future, (as described in the revised regulations promulgated in 2011) Audiology graduates from university programmes will be educated and trained in vestibular assessment and rehabilitation therapy. Thus, the situation for practitioners currently in practice (i.e. those who have previously graduated without this training will require additional education and training in vestibular assessment and rehabilitation, and cochlear implant) remains the same as outlined above.

It is imperative that all practitioners who work in vestibular assessment and rehabilitation are trained for this area of practice. Practitioners are reminded of the ethical requirements that they should only engage in areas within their scope of practice and for which they have adequate education, training, and experience.

IMPORTANCE OF PRACTITIONER AND STUDENT BEING REGISTERED WITH HPCSA



Registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is a pre-requisite for professional practice (Section 17 of HPCSA act of 1974).

Every person desiring to be registered in terms of the HPCSA act shall apply to the registrar and shall submit

the qualification which, in his or her submission, may entitle him or her to registration, together with such proof of identity and good character and of the authenticity and validity of the qualifications submitted as may be required by the Professional Board concerned.

THE ROLE OF THE HPCSA

Confer professional status

- The right to practise your profession
- Ensuring no unqualified person practises your profession
- Recognising you as a competent practitioner who may command a reward for service rendered
- Set standards of professional behaviour
- Guiding you on best practices in healthcare delivery
- Contributing to quality standards that promote the health of all South Africans
- Acting against unethical practitioners

Ensure your Continuing Professional Development through:

- Setting and promoting the principles of good practice to be followed throughout your career
- By keeping up to date with healthcare trends
- Improving client care skills

Practitioners who are not practising their profession may in terms of section 19(1)(c) of the Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) request that their name be removed from the relevant Register on a voluntary basis. A written request should reach Council before 31 March of the year in which the practitioner wishes his or her name to be removed from the Register.





For any information or assistance from the Council direct your enquiries to the Call Centre

Tel: 012 338 9300/01

Fax: 012 328 5120

Email: info@hpcsaco.za

Where to find us:

553 Madiba Street

Corner Hamilton and Madiba Streets

Arcadia, Pretoria

P.O Box 205

Pretoria 0001

Working Hours :

Monday – Friday : 08:00 – 16:30

Weekends and public holidays – Closed

Certificate of Good Standing/ Status, certified extracts verification of licensure

Email: hpcsacgs@hpcsaco.za

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Susan Ndwalane

Tel: 012 338 3995

Email: hpcsacgs@hpcsaco.za

Continuing Professional Development (CDP)

Helena da Silva

Tel: 012 338 9413

Email: raylenes@hpcsaco.za

Change of contact details

Email: cpd@hpcsaco.za

Raylene Symons

Tel: 012 338 9443

Email: raylenes@hpcsaco.za

Change of contact details

Email: records@hpcsaco.za

Ethics and professional practice, undesirable business practice and human rights of Council:

Ntsikelelo Sipeka

Tel: 012 338 9304

Email: NtsikeleloS@hpcsaco.za

Service Delivery

Email: servicedelivery@hpcsaco.za

Tel: 012 3389301

Complaints against practitioners Legal Services

Fax: 012 328 4895

Email: legalmed@hpcsaco.za

Statistical Information and Registers:

Yvette Daffue

Tel: 012 338 9354

Email: yvetted@hpcsaco.za

Professional Board Speech Language and Hearing

Tsholofelo Maforah

Tel: 012 338 3906

Email: SLHboard@hpcsaco.za

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