

E-Bulletin: Closure of the Clinical Technology Practice Register and re-activation of the Independent Practice Register in Clinical Technology.

The Clinical Technology Register was created in 1981 and Clinical Technologists with five years of experience in any of the seven categories of Clinical Technology (Cardiology, Perfusion, Nephrology, Neurology, Pulmonology, Critical Care and Reproductive Biology) were registered in Supervised Practice as provided for in Section 33 of the Health Professions Act (Act No. 56 of 1974).

In 1984, the four-year, National Diploma in Clinical Technology was introduced, and graduates were registered in the category Independent Practice with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). In 2000, the Bachelor of Technology (NQF level 7) was introduced, and the National Diploma in Clinical Technology became a three-year diploma (NQF level 6). National Diploma graduates were registered in the category Supervised Practice and Bachelor of Technology graduates were registered in the category Private Practice, which was established in 2002. The earlier four-year National Diploma graduates, graduates before 2002 were migrated to the Private Practice category and the Independent Practice category was subsequently deactivated.

In 2017, further curriculum developments, led to the introduction of the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) in Clinical Technology (NQF level 8). On the 13th of January 2021, the Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology (hereafter referred to as the Board) resolved to register the BHSc Clinical Technology students in Independent Practice, without restriction.

Independent Practice means the practising of a health profession by a registered health practitioner for his or her own account in solus practice, as a partner in a partnership with another health practitioner or other health practitioners, as an associate in an incorporated association with other health practitioners, or as a director of a company exempted from the provisions of the Act in terms of section 54A of the Act”.

The category registration Private Practice in Clinical Technology is not defined in the HPCSA statutes and therefore all Clinical Technologists registered in the category Private Practice and meet the minimum requirements for registration will be migrated to the Independent Practice register, by the 30th of April 2021.

All Clinical Technologists migrated to the Independent Practice category register from the Private Practice register will be issued with new registration certificates reflecting the Independent Practice category. HPCSA registration numbers will remain the same; only the category will be amended to Independent Practice from Private Practice. Clinical Technologists may continue to practice, as defined in the definition of Independent Practice, and register with the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) of Southern Africa, with no further restrictions in Scope of Practice.