

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 970

02 SEPTEMBER 2016

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)**REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF RADIOGRAPHY**

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33 (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for Radiography, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance), within three months from date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, "**Act**" means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning, unless the context otherwise indicates; and

"professional board" means the Professional Board for Radiography and Clinical Technology established in terms of section 15 of the Act.

The following acts are hereby specified as acts which shall for the purposes of the Act be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of radiography.

Diagnostic

2. (1) Imaging: the production and recording of images of anatomical regions and physiological functions by means of radiation media and other non-ionising modalities for diagnostic purposes including:

(a) x-rays: all diagnostic X-ray procedures performed at the request of a registered practitioner;

(b) magnetic resonance imaging performed at the request of a registered practitioner; and

- (c) provisional reporting on the chest, abdomen and skeletal system including soft tissues. Emphasis should be placed on discussing image appearance and not diagnosis.
- (2) Radiation protection: the application of radiation protection measures to patients, staff and general public in accordance with rules and recommendations laid down by the Radiation Control Directorate of the National Department of Health in South Africa.
- (3) Medicine control: collaboration with a radiologist or medical practitioner in the control and administration of contrast media or medicines as required for such diagnostic procedures.
- (4) Patient care: all aspects of patient care associated with the practice of radiography.
- (5) Equipment:
- (a) The use and care of equipment and accessories as may be required to carry out diagnostic procedures. To ensure that equipment in his or her care is in good working order and to report any suspected malfunction to the holder of the licence or his or her deputy; and
- (b) putting forward suggestions regarding modifications and additions to existing equipment and the purchasing of new equipment.
- (6) Quality assurance: compliance with the quality control of equipment, accessories and procedures associated with the practice of radiography.
- (7) Design of imaging departments and imaging installations.

Radiation Therapy

3. (1) Administration of treatment to patients accurately using ionising radiation, according to the prescription of the radiation oncologist.
- (2) Care of patients:
 - (a) Collaboration with the radiation oncologist in medical procedures associated with the practice of radiotherapy and to have at hand all such medicines and equipment as prescribed by the Radiation Oncologist; and
 - (b) caring for the patient during localisation, planning and therapeutic procedures.
- (3) To perform, at the written request of the radiation oncologist, localisations, immobilisations and treatment planning of tumours.
- (4) Therapeutic Radioactive isotopes: to assist the medical physicists in the storage, handling and administration of therapeutic radioactive isotopes (sealed) under the direction of the Radiation Oncologist.
- (5) Radiation protection: the application of radiation protection measures to patients, staff and general public in accordance with the rules and regulations laid down by the Directorate Radiation Control of the National Department of Health in South Africa.
- (6) Equipment: ensuring that equipment in the care of the radiation therapists in good mechanical order.
- (7) Quality Assurance:
 - (a) Utilising ionising radiation for irradiating any material for clinical or research purposes, under the direction of the radiotherapist.

(b) Attending to quality control of accessories, techniques and procedures associated with the practice of radiotherapy, and to assist medical physicists in the quality control of equipment associated with the practice of radiotherapy.

Nuclear Medicine

4. (1) Imaging: the acquisition, quantification and recording of images of cellular function and organ physiology by means of the administration of radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic and treatment purposes.

(2) Gamma rays: all radionuclide imaging procedures performed at the request of a medical practitioner and carried out under the supervision of the holder of the authority or a local committee authorised by the Atomic Energy Board to use radionuclides in medical practice.

(3) Non-imaging procedures: all invitro and in vivo techniques which are used for the elucidation of physiological functions or biochemical processes by means of radionuclides and which are not included in subregulation (1). In this instance, radionuclides include both gamma and beta emitters.

(4) Radiation protection: the application of radiation protection measures to patients, staff and the general public in accordance with the rules and recommendations laid down by the Radiation Control Directorate of the National Department of Health in South Africa.

- (5) Medicine control: collaboration with a Nuclear Medicine Physician for the medical use of radionuclides in the control and administration of radiopharmaceuticals, contrast media or interventional medicines as required for the procedures of nuclear medicine.
- (6) Patient care: collaboration with a healthcare practitioner in medical procedures associated with the practice of nuclear medicine.
- (7) The use and care of instrumentation and accessory equipment as may be required to carry out both in vivo and in vitro nuclear medicine procedures.
- (8) Therapeutic radioactive nuclides: attending to the storage, handling and administration of therapeutic nuclides (sealed and unsealed), under the direction of the Nuclear Medicine Physician or oncologist.
- (9) Other uses of ionising radiation from the above sources for irradiating any material for clinical or research purposes under the direction of the holder of the authority or a local committee authorised by the National Department of Health to use radionuclides in medical practice.
- (10) Quality assurance: attending to the quality control of equipment, accessories, techniques and protocols associated with the practice of nuclear medicine.

Diagnostic Ultrasound

5. (1) Imaging: all ultrasound procedures for the production and recording of images of anatomical regions and physiological functions by means of ultrasound for diagnostic purposes.
- (2) Patient care procedures associated with the practice of ultrasound.

- (3) Medical control: collaboration with a medical practitioner in the control and administration of pharmacological solutions as required for ultrasound procedures.
- (4) Equipment –the use and care of equipment and accessories as may be required to carry out ultrasound procedures.
- (5) Quality assurance –quality control of accessories, techniques and procedures associated with the practice of ultrasound.
- (6) Design of imaging departments and imaging installations.
- (7) Interpret the ultrasound image, describe the findings and advise on further patient management.

Repeal

6. The regulations defining the scope of the profession of radiography as published under Government Notice No.R2326 in *Government Gazette* 5349 of 3 December 1976 are hereby repealed.



DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 5/8/2016