

CIRCULAR 7/2022

**To: NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH
NURSING EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (NEIS)
ALL STAKEHOLDERS**

SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY NURSES WHO HAVE COMPLETED BACHELOR OF NURSING PROGRAMME IN LINE WITH REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE APPROVAL AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF A LEARNER LEADING TO REGISTRATION IN THE CATEGORY PROFESSIONAL NURSE AND MIDWIFE GG NO. R174 OF 8 MARCH 2013

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this circular is to share with the National Department of Health, Provincial Departments of Health, Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) and other relevant stakeholders on performance of community service by the students who have undergone the Bachelor of Nursing programme in line with **above-mentioned regulations**.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Sub-regulation 2.1 of the Regulations relating to performance of Community Service (Government Notice Regulations No.765 of 24 August 2007) stipulate that *“any person who is a citizen of South Africa intending to register for the first time as a **Professional Nurse** in terms of the Act, as having met the prescribed requirements to qualify as such, must perform remunerated community service for a period of one year”*

2.2 Sub-Regulation 2.2 further indicates that the Minister must by notice in the *Government Gazette* determine the date on which community service must commence and the health facilities where such service is to be performed.

2.3 Sub-Regulation 8 (a) under the transitional provisions of the above regulations stipulates that these Regulations on performance of community service are applicable to any person who seeks registration on completing and meeting the requirements prescribed in the Regulations relating to the Approval of and the Minimum Requirements for the Education and Training of a Nurse (General, Psychiatric and Community) and Midwife leading to registration published in *Government Notice No. 425 of 22 February 1985*, or **any subsequent regulation made to replace it**.

2.4 Sub-Regulation 8 (b) under the transitional provisions further stipulates that these Regulations on performance of community service are not applicable to any person who seeks registration on completing and meeting the requirements prescribed in the Regulations relating



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to the Minimum Requirements for a Bridging Course for Enrolled Nurses leading to registration as a General Nurse or a Psychiatric Nurse published in Government Notice No. 683 of 14 April 1989.2.5 The legacy programmes are currently being phased out as already communicated to the stakeholders. In terms of the teach-out period for the students who underwent the course for Education and Training of a Nurse (General, Psychiatric and Community) and Midwife leading to registration published in Government Notice No. 425 of 22 February 1985, is 2024 because the last intake date was 2019. Therefore, performance of community service by the graduates from this course will be in 2025-2026.

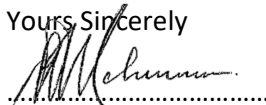
- 2.6 The Nursing Education Institutions have commenced with offering of the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF) aligned nursing qualifications. It is anticipated that some of the Nursing Education Institutions will produce their first cohort of students in 2022 except the cohort from the Higher Certificate which was from 2021. It is therefore vital that the South African Nursing Council provide clarity performance of remunerated community service on completion of the programme.
- 2.7 Sub-Regulation 11.1 under the transitional provisions of the Regulations Relating to the Approval of and the Minimum Requirements for the Education and Training of a Learner leading to Registration in the Categories **Professional Nurse and Midwife** (Government Notice Regulations No. 174 of 8 March 2013), states that the regulations relating to the approval of and the minimum requirements for the education and training of a nurse (general, psychiatric and community) and midwife leading to registration published by Government Notice No. R.425 of 22 February 1985 will remain in force **until repealed by notice in the Gazette.**

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the students who have undergone the Bachelor of Nursing programme will be required to perform community service.
- 3.2 Students who have undergone Diploma in nursing will not be required to perform community service.
4. Information about community service and the relevant application forms is published on the SANC website at www.sanc.co.za. Click on Registered Nurses and Midwives on home page and scroll down to SANC services. Lecturers and student nurses are free to download the information and application forms during the month of December in preparation for 2023. The information and applications are reviewed yearly to also include the applicable fees on commencement and completion of the programme.
5. The matter on whether the Professional Entrance Examination will be written before or after registration as Community Service Practitioners is receiving attention and circular will follow after the matter is concluded.

For further information in respect of this Circular, you are advised to contact Ms SJ Nxumalo, Acting Deputy Registrar: Professional Affairs at (012) 420 1022 or on e-mail at: jnxumalo@sanc.co.za

Yours Sincerely



MS SA MCHUNU
REGISTRAR AND CEO

24 May 2022
DATE