

SERVICES AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL DURING THE NATIONAL STATE OF DISASTER



SANC staff worked offsite rendering critical services.



CLOSURE OF SANC OFFICE DURING ALERT LEVELS 5 AND 4 OF THE RISK ADJUSTED STRATEGY OF GOVERNMENT

The SANC has been criticised severely for its compliance with the Government's regulations published under the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002. It needs to be noted that it was through these regulations that sectors and services were classified as emergency services. It was through the same regulations that the implementation of the Risk Adjusted Strategy was implemented, gradually allowing controlled reopening of the country's activities. It is regrettable that a few of our own professionals may have misread and/or misunderstood the Government's legislation and guidelines. The SANC could not deliberately disregard Government's legislation.

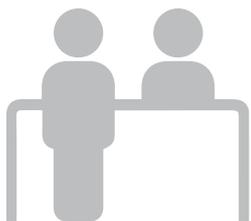
Although the Council was compelled to close its offices in compliance with the said regulations, it continued to render offsite critical services, hence registrations and certificates were issued to all provinces during lockdown.

REGISTRATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PRACTITIONERS AND PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Nurses who have completed their degree and diploma nursing programmes from Universities and Colleges of Nursing respectively, as well as those who have completed their community services from Government-designated health facilities, have expressed concern about the delayed registration. These concerns are understood and taken seriously by the SANC.

The SANC would like to reiterate the following:

Nursing Education Institutions legally have 30 days to submit applications for registration of Community Service Practitioners following completion of a nursing programme. The same applies to the Provincial Departments of Health in respect of registration of Professional Nurses following completion of Community Service. The SANC is legally required to process and issue certificates 60 days after the submission. All applications that were received within prescribed time frames were duly processed and certificates were issued. The SANC commends NEIs and Provincial Departments of Health that submitted on time.



Some nurses whose applications were received late have also been registered depending on dates of submission. Such registrations can be verified from the SANC eRegister for employment purposes. The latest submission so far, was received on 17 June 2020, this was for students who completed their nursing programmes on 31 December 2019. This is one of the many factors that cause delayed registration. The SANC has put in place mechanisms to enhance the turnaround times to process these late submissions. Certain delays may be anticipated due to submission of non-compliant applications that have been sent back to affected Nursing Education Institutions (completion of programme) and Provincial Departments of Health (completion of Community Service).

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

Due to unavailability of some service providers during the lockdown, temporary registration certificates were issued to Community Service Practitioners and Professional Nurses who had completed their community service. Such certificates were sent to the respective Provincial Departments of Health and are valid until 31 December 2020. The **permanent** registration certificates will be dispatched before end of September 2020.



FREE RESTORATION

During a time when the world is facing one of its worst crises ever, especially in the area of healthcare, the South African Nursing Council (SANC) recognises and understands the need for as many registered nurses as possible to assist with the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. It was for this reason that the Council approved free restoration for all practitioners who needed to render services during the National State of Disaster period. It is pleasing to note that many nurses have been restored under this arrangement.

The SANC applauds nurses for the sacrifices they make during the pandemic, often at the cost of themselves and their families.

UTILISATION OF THE eREGISTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL

The SANC has become aware and is concerned with the difficulties that some nurses and midwives experience when they apply for jobs and employers/prospective employers insist on a physical receipt.

The SANC **confirms** that the eRegister is the SANC's electronic copy of active records of nurses and midwives and is displayed on the internet for easy access. It can be used by employers/prospective employers to verify if the practitioner is actively registered with the SANC.

It contains ONLY details of persons that are actively registered with the SANC. The absence of the person's name means that the person is not registered or that his/her name has been removed from the Nurse Register.

Employers/prospective employers are **assured** of the authenticity of the information displayed or published in the eRegister, which is updated frequently, mostly on a daily basis. Practitioners can also access the eRegister for their own use but should not present printed copies to employers/prospective employers.

Employers/prospective employers can verify the registration status of practitioners through the following simple steps:

- Go to the SANC website: **www.sanc.co.za**;
- Click the eRegister button;
- Click here to start the eRegister system;
- Accept the *Conditions of Use*;
- Enter the employee's SANC reference number or SA ID number and click "Find"; and
- Check response, if it indicates that the SANC reference number is not found, then the practitioner is not registered with the SANC.



DOUBLE PAYMENTS OF ANNUAL FEES - INTERVENTIONS BY THE SANC AND THE WAY FORWARD

Resolution 3 of 2019 of the Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council (PHSDSBC) provided for the following, amongst others:

- ✓ Introduction of mandatory deductions of professional registration fees from salary of employees by PERSAL as required by the respective statutory professional bodies in the Health and Social Departments.

Payments to the South African Nursing Council were accordingly made through National Treasury. While this was effected, some nurses had paid or were advised to pay for themselves. This invariably led to some practitioners paying double fees. The Council on its own could not reverse these payments because the SANC has no access to the following:

- ✓ Nurses banking details and these could not be shared by the Provinces; and
- ✓ Persal and BAS Systems.

In order to mitigate the challenge, the SANC instituted several interventions that have unfortunately not as yet borne fruit:

- ✓ National Treasury was requested to effect reversals back to the Provinces or supply the Council with the banking details of all the affected nurses.
- ✓ The National Department of Health was requested to liaise with National Treasury regarding the payment of these refunds to the affected nurse practitioners or explore other alternatives that could be used in this regard. The National Department of Health is currently attending to this matter and it is hoped that a solution will be found.

Should the matter not be resolved shortly by the National Department of Health, in consultation with the SANC, the one and only solution will be to provide provinces with a schedule that allows deduction of the difference between the fees of 2020 and those of 2021 from the affected practitioners.

The SANC has tried the legitimate avenues of resolving the matter and the inconvenience suffered by affected practitioners is deeply regretted.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES - CLINICAL TEACHING AND LEARNING AND SANC EXAMINATIONS

- ✓ The SANC is aware of the anxieties associated with COVID-19 related restrictions on academic activities in all sectors in the country and specifically the impact on the SANC examinations. A Circular regarding the SANC conducted examinations will be issued on or around 7th August 2020, following a Council meeting.
- ✓ The SANC adheres to the Government's regulations published under the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002, and therefore, it is important that all the persons in charge/Principals of the Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) familiarise themselves with the pronouncements and regulations relating to COVID-19 that are issued and/or amended from time to time and plan accordingly.

STATUS OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following regulations were promulgated

- ✓ Regulations Relating to the Approval of and the Minimum Requirements for the Education and Training of a Student Leading to Registration as a Nurse Specialist or Midwife Specialist (Government notice No. R. 635 of 5 June 2020).
- ✓ Regulations Relating to the Approval of and the Minimum Requirements for the Education and Training of a Learner Leading to Registration in the category Midwife (Government notice No. R. 1497 of 22 November 2019).
- ✓ Regulations Regarding the Register for Learner/Student Nurses and Learner/Student Midwife (Government notice No. R. 519 of 11 May 2020)

The following guidelines and revised qualifications framework were published on 8 July 2020:

- ✓ Education and Training Guidelines for Postgraduate Diploma programmes
- ✓ Qualifications Framework for Postgraduate Diploma diplomas was published on 8 July 2020.

NB: Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) are thus encouraged to submit the postgraduate diploma programmes for evaluation. NEIs are further reminded to adhere to the Notice issued jointly by SANC and the Council on Higher Education (CHE), which indicates that **"The CHE will no longer accept any applications from providers that do not have a letter of approval/accreditation from SANC"**.

2021 ANNUAL FEES

23 July 2020

1. ANNUAL FEES FOR 2021

1.1 NORMAL ANNUAL FEES

The annual fees for the calendar year 2021 for different categories of practitioners are provided in the table below:

CATEGORY	ANNUAL FEE FOR 2021
Registered Nurses and Midwives	R700.00
Enrolled Nurses and Midwives	R418.00
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliaries	R293.00

1.2 REDUCTIONS IN ANNUAL FEES FOR AGE 60 AND OVER

The Council has resolved to introduce reduced fees for nurses 60 years of age and over as per the table below:

1.2.1 60 TO 64 YEARS OF AGE ON 1 JANUARY 2021 (25% REDUCTION)

CATEGORY	ANNUAL FEE FOR 2021
Registered Nurses and Midwives	R525.00
Enrolled Nurses and Midwives	R314.00
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliaries	R220.00

1.2.2 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER ON 01 JANUARY 2021 (50% REDUCTION)

CATEGORY	ANNUAL FEE FOR 2021
Registered Nurses and Midwives	R350.00
Enrolled Nurses and Midwives	R209.00
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliaries	R157.00

NB: To qualify for the discount amounts, practitioners may be required to submit a certified copy of their identity document in order to confirm their age.

Notes:

The annual fees for 2021 must be received by the SANC on or before 31 December 2020.
The amounts in the tables above all include 15% VAT.

2. RESTORATION FEES FOR 2021

The restoration fees for different categories applicable from 1 January 2021 are shown in the following table.

CATEGORY	NORMAL RESTORATION FEE	REDUCED RESTORATION FEE
Registered Nurses and Midwives	R2 100.00	R146.00
Enrolled Nurses and Midwives	R1 254.00	R146.00
Enrolled Nursing Auxiliaries	R878.00	R146.00
Retired Nurses	R146.00	R146.00

Notes:**The reduced restoration fee only applies to a practitioner.**

- ✓ Who must have been removed from the register at his/her own request; or
- ✓ Who must be 60 years of age or older on **1 January 2021**. **However, this must be confirmed with the Council before paying the reduced amount.**

3. VOLUNTARY REMOVAL

A Nurse Practitioner who no longer wishes to practise in South Africa or who is unemployed, may request, in writing, a voluntary removal of his/her name from the register, by completing the form available from the SANC. If a voluntary removal is granted by the SANC, the nurse practitioner's name will be removed accordingly on the **31 December** of the year in which the application is received. Once removed, the nurse practitioner will no longer be required to pay annual fees while he/she is removed from the register.

If the nurse practitioner requires reinstatement onto the register, he/she will, in addition to paying the reduced **restoration fee, be required to complete a Restoration Form**. It must be noted that practising while not being registered is illegal.

4. CLOSING DATE FOR PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEES

Please note that for the calendar year 2021, the closing date for the payment of annual fees is **31 December 2020**. **Payments must reach the SANC bank account on or before the closing date**. You are, therefore, urged not to leave payment for the last minute to avoid problems associated with making payments at year end. **Remember:** Bank transfers from non-FNB banks may take up to **3 working days** and you are therefore advised to pay well in advance to meet 31 December 2020 deadline.

5. OTHER FEES

Please note that other fees and fees payable by institutions will be applicable with effect from **01 January 2021**.

6. PERSAL DEDUCTIONS

The signing of Resolution 3 of 2019 in September 2019 by the National Department of Health together with major trade unions in Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council (PHSDSBC) brought into effect the implementation of Persal deductions in 2020 for all employees falling under the scope of the PHSDSBC.

As a result of this agreement, affected nurse practitioners are urged not to pay the annual fees on their own as the employers are required to pay on their behalf in terms of Resolution 3 of 2019.

7. eREGISTER

The SANC has made an eRegister facility available on the SANC website which can be utilised by employers to verify the registration status of all nurse practitioners in their employment. Employers are urged to utilise this facility in the absence of a physical Annual Practising Certificate (APC). **Visit: <https://www.sanc.co.za/eRegister.aspx> for more details.**

8. COMMUNITY SERVICE PRACTITIONERS

Community Service Practitioners are not eligible to be issued with an APC and therefore should **NOT** pay annual fees. They **MUST** pay a conversion fee on completion of their Community Service in order to be registered as Nurse Practitioners using the **REGFPRA** registration fee code instead of ANLFEEES (**e.g. 12345678REGFPRA**).

ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

2 0 2 0

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1

The annual fees for **2021** must be received by the SANC on or before **31 December 2020**

2

Remember: Bank transfers from different banks take up to **3 working days** - pay well in advance to meet **31 December 2020** deadline

3

*Request **voluntary removal** if you are not practising as a nurse = reduced restoration fees to be re-registered

4

eRegister: Acceptable legal means to verify a practitioner's registration status with the SANC, in the absence of a physical certificate.

Visit: <http://www.sanc.co.za/eRegister.aspx>

5

Community Service Practitioners: Your registration fee code is: REGFPRA, not ANLFEES (e.g. 12345678REGFPRA).



www.sanc.co.za



www.facebook.com/sancorg

*Note: Terms and conditions apply.



South African Nursing Council
Regulating nursing, advocating for the public