

Circular 2/2021

25 May 2021

To: National Department of Health
Provincial Departments of Health
Private Health Care Providers
Nursing Education Institutions
All Stakeholders

DIRECTIVE FOR CONSISTENT PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TO FRONTLINE NURSING STAFF

Legal Mandate

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is a statutory body established in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005), to set and maintain the standards of nursing education and practice in the Republic of South Africa.

Background

As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa's health system had to function under the new normal, in line with Disaster Management Regulations, and in compliance with the Disaster Management Act of 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) as amended, in order to manage the pandemic and protect both the service users and health care providers against the deadly virus. The Regulations were aligned to other existing Regulations, including but not limited to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993), which provides for promotion of the health and safety of employees in the workplace. On 23 August 2020, Minister of Health, Dr Z. Mkhize pronounced mandatory provision of Personal Protective



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Equipment (PPE) for frontline workers, reiterating that no frontline workers should risk their lives and work without appropriate PPE during the Covid-19 pandemic. To ensure continued protection of both patients and nursing staff, it is mandatory that all frontline nurses are provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whilst rendering nursing care.

Directive

Nursing Service Managers and Heads of Nursing Education institutions are hereby requested to ensure that:

- Quality and sufficient PPE is provided to nurse practitioners and student nurses;
- All nurses and student nurses are trained on the appropriate use and wearing of PPE; and
- No nurse practitioner or student nurse is allocated to clinical areas without the required PPE.

The circular is issued by the directive of Council of the South African Nursing Council through a resolution taken at its meeting held on 30-31 March 2021.

Kind Regards



S A Mchunu (Ms)
Registrar and CEO
S A Nursing Council

Date: 25/05/2021