

## POSITION STATEMENT RELATING TO ASSESSING, DIAGNOSING OF PATIENTS AND THE RELATED KEEPING, SUPPLYING AND PRESCRIBING OF MEDICINES BY NURSES

### 1. PREAMBLE

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. The SANC has a responsibility to serve and protect the public by regulating nursing and midwifery professions, uphold and maintain professional conduct of Nurse Practitioners who are registered in terms of the Act.

### 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this position statement is to outline the processes and procedures to be followed by Nurse Practitioners with regards to assessing, diagnosing of patients and for the related keeping, supplying and prescribing of medicines by nurses.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

- 3.1. Section (56) (6) of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act no. 33 of 2005)
- 3.2. Section 22A (15) and 31 of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965,
- 3.3. Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1974 (Act No. 53 of 1974)
- 3.4. Any other relevant legislation.

### 4. SANC Position

- 4.1 Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act no. 33 of 2005) is only applicable to Nurse Practitioners who are in the employ at all levels of state services and any organization performing health services as designated by the Director-General (DG).



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- 4.2. Such Nurse Practitioners must be suitably qualified and registered with SANC in terms of Section 31(1)(a)(b) of the Nursing Act, 2005(Act No. 33 of 2005).
- 4.3. Nurses employed in any organization as designated by the DG need to apply for a dispensing license and are expected to adhere to relevant guidelines.
- 4.4. Professional Nurses with post basic qualifications, who are neither employed in public health services nor in designated areas but meet the criteria as set by (NDOH, SANC, Pharmacy Council etc.), can be issued with a Section 22A (15) permit.
- 4.5. Section 22A (15) permits referred to in the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965 as amended) are issued by the Director-General of Health, after consultation with the SANC and SAPC.
- 4.6. All practitioners who keep medication on their premises have to comply with the applicable guidelines for Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP).

The Council approved the position statement at its meeting held on 29 June 2021.



**S A MCHUNU (MS)**  
**REGISTRAR AND CEO**  
**S A NURSING COUNCIL**

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