

## SANC POSITION STATEMENT ON DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPERVISION OF NURSES.

### 1. 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.

### 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the position statement is to provide clarity on the meaning of direct and indirect supervision as provided for in the Scope of Practice Regulations for Nurses and Midwives, Government Gazette R 2598 of 30 November 1984.

### 3. BACKGROUND

Supervision is a professional development activity where the less experienced nurses benefit from the knowledge and experience of their supervisor, to address any gaps in knowledge or skill set. Direct supervision improves their own clinical performance which also influences the quality of nursing care provided.

### 4. SANC POSITION

**4.1. Direct supervision** means the provision of guidance and oversight to a supervisee by a physically present and experienced Registered Nurse Practitioner. It involves greater levels of interaction between the supervisor and the supervisee; and transference of necessary skills and knowledge. It improves the competence of the supervisee on specific aspect of nursing practice.

**4.2. Indirect supervision** means provision of guidance and oversight to a supervised by a Register Nurse Practitioner, who is not physically present to observe and guide the



Cecilia Makiwane Building,  
602 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, Pretoria 0083  
Private Bag X132, Pretoria 0001,  
Republic of South Africa



Tel: 012 420 1000  
Fax: 012 343 5400  
SANC Fraud Hotline: 0800 20 12 16



website: [www.sanc.co.za](http://www.sanc.co.za)

supervisee, but is within the health establishment and is available to provide assistance as and when required.

#### 4.2.1. Conditions for Indirect Supervision

The following conditions **must** be adhered to in all instances of indirect supervision provided:

- The supervisor must be accessible within the health establishment;
- The task performed must be within the Scope of Practice of the supervisee;
- The supervisee must be provided with relevant functional equipment to perform the delegated task;
- There must be reliable and accessible form of communication system in case of an emergency;
- Depending on the type of the unit, Enrolled Nurses and Enrolled Nursing Assistants must be readily able to consult with their Professional nurse as the need arises; and
- In all specialized units, Nurse Enrolled Nurses and Enrolled Nursing Assistants must **never** be left on their own as primary nursing care givers without a Professional, General Nurse or Midwife.

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**

DATE: 2021-07-30