

SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE RELATED MATTERS

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DATE: 06 APRIL 2022




South African Nursing Council
Regulating nursing, advocating for the public

Presentation Outline

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 - 2.1. Nursing Practice Standards development
 - 2.2. Establishment of the Inspectorate
 - 2.3. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
 - 2.4. Development of Private Practice Regulations
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1. Introduction

- The SANC is mandated in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act no. 33 of 2005), Act to serve and protect the public in matters involving nursing and midwifery services, to uphold and maintain professional conduct and practice standards.
 - Section 4 (2) (g) and 3(C) of the Act mandates the SANC to carry out quality control inspections in accordance with the prescribed conditions in order to promote the provision of nursing services to the inhabitants of the Republic that complies with universal norms and values.
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2. Professional Practice Strategic Initiatives


- The 16th Council has, as part of its five years strategy prioritized, amongst others the following initiatives for Professional Practice:
- **Development of Nursing Practice Standards;**
- **Establishment of the Inspectorate Section;**
- **Introduction of CPD; and**
- **Development of Private Practice Regulations**




2.1. Nursing Practice Standards development

- In terms of standards development, initial scoping of standards was conducted in June 2020. The scoping exercise culminated into the first draft Nursing Practice Standards and draft inspection tools.
 - A diverse Technical Working Group (TWG) approach was approved by Council to ensure an inclusive process of standards development. The TWG consisted of representatives from Nursing Practice Directorates in Provincial Departments of Health, Private Hospitals Groups, and the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC).
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Standards development process...cont.

- The TWG developed the second draft incorporating best practices from benchmarking exercises conducted.
 - Socio Economic Impact Analysis System (SEIAS) was conducted, and approval was granted by the Presidency.
 - Consultations on developed standards were conducted with stakeholders and comments from stakeholders informed the development of third draft Nursing Practice Standards document.
 - The standards, together with inspection tools/ measures were approved by Council in January 2022.
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Standards development process...cont.

- Council also approved conduction of pilot inspections in sampled health establishments.
 - The pilot will enable the SANC to test the practicality and acceptability of developed standards in health establishments, as well as internal processes developed (policy and Standard Operating Procedures) .
 - Lessons learnt from the pilot will inform the necessary revisions and finalisation of the Nursing Practice Standards, and these will be used to inspect all health establishments in order to improve quality of the nursing care provision.
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2.2. Establishment of the Inspectorate

- Parallel to standards development, the SANC adopted a phased in approach in the establishment of the Inspectorate section within Professional Practice Department, in order to implement Section 4 (2) (g) and 3(C) of the Act.
 - This is the section that is responsible for conducting inspections , they are currently piloting the Nursing Practice Standards in purposefully sampled health establishments, from PHC/CHCs to Tertiary and Central hospitals, including Private.
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Establishment of the Inspectorate.....cont.

- The section currently has a Manager and 2 Professional Advisors, recruitment of additional staff is underway.
 - The Inspectorate team has, up to date inspected health establishments as indicated below:
 - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
 - Mediclinic Medforum Private Hospital
 - Rethabile Health Community Health Care Centre
 - There is general acceptance of the Nursing Practice Standards by the profession in health establishments inspected and valuable comments/ inputs are being provided.
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2.3. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) update

- Development of a CPD System for nurses and midwives has been a growing priority for the SANC.
 - Sections 39 (a) (b) (c) & 59 (1)(a) (b) (c) of the Act mandates the Council to develop a CPD system for nurses and midwives in S A.
 - In line with the mandate above, the SANC developed a CPD framework, related documents and processes which were approved by Council.
 - CPD briefing sessions were conducted with stakeholders in 2021.
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CPD update.....cont.

- SANC requested approval from NDoH to conduct CPD pilot roll out in Provinces and approval was granted. (NDOH is the Custodian of Health).
 - SANC developed a CPD pilot roll out implementation plan.
 - Gauteng Province was identified as the first CPD pilot roll out site
 - The pilot is currently underway in Gauteng, conducted in partnership with the office of the Chief Nursing Office (CNO), the Nursing Practice Directorate.
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CPD update.....cont.

- The pilot will be conducted in 5 provinces, one district within a province
 - 50% of practising Midwives in provinces were sampled for the pilot.
 - Partogram training is being used for the pilot, facilitated by the Advanced Midwives who are part of the District Specialist Teams already established in Provinces.
 - The pilot will assist SANC to test and refine its internal processes accordingly, in preparation for the SANC nationwide CPD roll out for nurses and midwives in South Africa.
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CPD update.....cont.

- The office is currently inundated with queries on when the CPD will commence, how will this work and how to apply to be a CPD provider.
 - CPD is currently in the piloting stage.
 - A Membership Management System (SANC online System) will be used for CPD implementation. The project is currently underway.
 - The SANC will communicate in advance when the CPD implementation starts, so that prospective providers may apply. CPD documents outlining requirements will be made-available on SANC website for ease of access.
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2.4. Development of Private Practice Regulations

- Section 58 (1)(j) of the Act mandates the Council to develop **REGULATIONS RELATING TO CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PRIVATE PRACTICE MAY BE LICENCED.**
 - The Regulations were developed, approved by Council and submitted to NDoH for processing.
 - The office is inundated with queries from Practitioners who want to open Private Practices.
 - Such Practitioners must follow due processes as prescribed by the Licencing Directorate in the NDoH, available on www.health.gov.za.
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3. Update on Impairment

- The Council has noted with concern the increasing number of cases reported to Impairment Committee
 - The purpose of the Committee is to assist practitioners who are physically or mentally impaired.
 - Most of the cases relate to addiction and or abuse of scheduled substances (schedule 5,6 and 7) by nurse practitioners.
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Update on Impairment....cont.

- While managing practitioners under impairment, the Council resolved to issued a circular, to sensitise Professional nurses and Nurse managers, reminding them of their roles, amongst others:
 - **Implementing policies and SOPs on management of scheduled substances and strictly monitor their implementation.**
 - **Reporting all allegations of addiction or Abuse to SANC so that practitioners involved can be assisted.**
 - The circular was sent to Heads of Health (HODs) in provinces and is also available on the SANC website for ease of access.
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*Thank
you!*

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