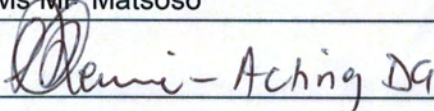




health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

POLICY FOR ISSUING OF AUTHORISATIONS TO PROFESSIONAL NURSES TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN TERMS OF SECTION 56(6) OF THE NURSING ACT 33 OF 2005

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Signature	
Date	2016/05/04

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LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 56 of the Nursing Act 33 of 2005 as amended (the Nursing Act) provides a mechanism for nurses to perform certain functions including the prescribing of medicine. Section 56(6) (Special provisions relating to certain nurses) of the Nursing Act states that:

Despite the provisions of this Act, the said Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965, the Pharmacy Act, 1974 (Act 53 of 1974), and the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974), a nurse who is in the service of -

- (a) the national department;*
- (b) a provincial department of health;*
- (c) a municipality; or*
- (d) an organisation performing any health service designated by the Director-General after consultation with the South African Pharmacy Council referred to in section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1974, and who has been authorised by the Director-General, the head of such provincial department of health, the medical officer of health of such municipality or the medical practitioner in charge of such organisation, as the case may be, may in the course of such service perform with reference to-*
 - (i) the physical examination of any person;*
 - (ii) the diagnosing of any physical defect, illness or deficiency in any person;*
 - or*
 - (iii) the keeping of prescribed medicines and their supply, administering or prescribing on the prescribed conditions,*

any act which the said Director-General, head of provincial department of health, medical officer of health or medical practitioner, as the case may be, may, after consultation with the Council, determine in general or in a particular case or in cases of a particular nature, if the services of a medical practitioner or pharmacist, as the circumstances may require, are not available.

In the interest of patient safety, increasing access to medicines and the protection of all professionals providing the service, and to ensure that services offered by provinces and municipalities are of adequate quality, the following policy is put forward to manage this process.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Professional nurses in the service of provincial and municipal departments of health can thus perform the physical examination of any person, diagnose a physical defect, illness or deficiency; and/or keep, prescribe, administer and dispense medicines. Nurses may only perform these functions, if they have been granted authorisation to do so in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act, by the head of a provincial department of health or the medical officer in charge of a municipality.
2. Nurses who hold such authorisation may only prescribe medicines for adults and children in accordance with the latest version of the Primary Health Care Essential Medicines List and Standard Treatment Guidelines (PHC STG and EML) and associated provincial

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formulary or code list as approved by the provincial pharmaceutical and therapeutics committee.

3. A nurse may only perform the functions authorised by Section 56(6) in public sector facilities in the district or municipality where the authorisation was granted to him/her.
4. Pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel may dispense a prescription issued by a nurse authorised to prescribe medicine in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act, provided that the nurse has only prescribed medicine which he/she has been authorised to prescribe in terms of the authority issued to him/her. A nurse may, however, not dispense a repeat of a prescription for specialised or hospital level medicines prescribed by a medical practitioner.
5. Provinces and municipalities are responsible for the authorisation of nurses to perform the functions provided for in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act in such province or municipality.
6. The National Department of Health (NDoH) is responsible for the development and implementation of national policy, the maintenance of the Essential Medicines List and Standard Treatment Guidelines for Primary Health Care, establishment of a database for maintaining a record of nurses who hold such authorisations and putting mechanisms in place to support nurses to provide quality patient care.

AUTHORISATION OF NURSES IN TERMS OF SECTION 56(6)

7. All professional nurses who currently hold authorisation in terms of Section 38A of the Nursing Act 50 of 1978 or Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act 33 of 2005 are deemed to be duly authorised in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act. Such a nurse may only perform the functions and prescribe the medicines as provided for in the original authorisation granted to him/her as aligned with the current PHC STG and EML.
8. As from a date to be determined by the Director-General, new authorisations may only be granted to professional nurses who hold the following qualifications or who have successfully completed the following in-service training -
 - i. An appropriate postgraduate qualification or other suitable course/s accredited by the South African Nursing Council; or
 - ii. Adult Primary Care Guide (PC101) (all modules); or
 - iii. Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) – for 0 to 5 years or
 - iv. Other in-service training approved by the NDoH in consultation with provinces or municipalities.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED

9. The following standard procedure should be followed in the granting of authority in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act by provinces and municipalities.
10. In addition to the criteria included in this policy for the granting of authority in terms of Section 56(6), the province or municipality may determine any additional criteria to be applied in the granting authorisations in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act in such province or municipality.

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11. Each professional nurse who is identified to perform the functions referred to in 56(6) in the district must submit an application entitled 'Application for authorisation to render services under the provisions of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act 33 of 2005 as amended (the Nursing Act)'. The application may be electronic or paper based. (Refer Annexure I for an example of the form to be used)
12. The application must be considered by the person delegated to issue Section 56(6) authorisations in order to determine if the application complies with all applicable criteria for the granting of authority.
13. If the application complies with the criteria laid down, the authority may be granted to the nurse and the certificate entitled, 'Authority under section 56(6) of the Nursing Act 33 of 2005', customised and issued to the nurse (Refer Annexure II for an example of the authorisation form to be used).
14. Authority may be granted for a period up to and including three (3) years from the date of issue and thereafter may be renewed provided the nurse complies with all applicable criteria.

RECORD KEEPING

15. The original copy of the authorisation must be issued to the nurse and a copy (paper based or electronic) provided to the head of pharmaceutical services and the head of nursing services of the province or municipality.
16. One copy (paper based or electronic) must be retained at the district/municipal office.
17. Relevant details of the authorisation must be captured on a database approved and provided by the NDOH. Data will be verified at provincial level.
18. If any changes occur during the period of authorisation, a new application form must be completed and a new authorisation issued.

DISPENSING OF PRESCRIPTIONS OF NURSES AUTHORISED IN TERMS OF SECTION 56(6) OF THE NURSING ACT

19. Dispensing of prescriptions by pharmacy personnel (pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacist's assistants) is regulated in terms Section 22A (Control of medicines and scheduled substances) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act 101 of 1965 as amended (the Medicines Act) and the Regulations relating the practice of pharmacy published in terms of the Pharmacy Act 53 of 1974.
20. A pharmacist, pharmacist intern or pharmacist's assistant may dispense a prescription issued by an authorised prescriber (in terms of the Medicines Act) or a person authorised to prescribe medicine (e.g. in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act).
21. Pharmacy personnel may issue a prescription from a nurse authorised to prescribe medicines provided that there is reasonable and objective information available to the pharmacist/pharmacist's assistant that the nurse has been duly authorised in accordance with Section 56(6).

GENERAL

22. It must be noted that the prescribing of medicines and the dispensing of prescriptions are separate functions. Dispensing licenses are issued by the Director General in terms of Section 22C(1)(a) of the Medicines Act. The Director General may also issue permits to persons to acquire, possess, use or supply certain medicine in terms of Section 22A(15)

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of the Medicines Act. A nurse authorised in terms of Section 56(6) does not require a dispensing licence or a Section 22A(15) permit to prescribe medicine.

23. Where districts have difficulty in complying with the general principles outlined in this policy, this must be communicated to head of the provincial department of health or the medical officer of the municipality (as applicable).

LOGO	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">[ADDRESS]</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">[CONTACT DETAILS]</div>		
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 56(6) OF THE NURSING ACT 33 OF 2005, AS AMENDED (NURSING ACT)			
SECTION A: APPLICANT DETAILS			
Title		SANC Reg No.	
Surname			
Full Names			
Persal Number			
Identity/Passport Number			
SECTION B: DISTRICT/MUNICIPALITY DETAILS			
1. District/Municipality			
2. Name of Institution where based			
SECTION C: DETAILS OF FACILITY(IES) WHERE SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED			
1. Facility Name			
Address			
2. Facility Name			
Address			
3. Facility Name			
Address			
SECTION C: ADDRESS TO BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE			
1. Postal Address			
SECTION D: CONTACT DETAILS			
1. Telephone Number	Area Code		Number

2. Business Telephone Number	Area Code		Number	
3. Fax Number	Area Code		Number	
4. Cell Number of Applicant				
5. E-mail address				
SECTION E: DETAILS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE				
PRIMARY QUALIFICATION	INSTITUTION			YEAR OF QUALIFICATION
COURSES COMPLETED (TICK)				
Postgraduate qualification or other suitable course/s accredited by SANC				
Primary Care 101 (PC101) (all modules)				
Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) – for 0 to 5 years				
Other in-service training approved by the National Department of Health				
SECTION F: RELEVANT EXPERIENCE				
<p>1. Please give details of any experience you may have in performing the functions in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act 33 of 2005. Please include details of functions performed, the institutions where the functions were performed, and the relevant dates.</p>				
SECTION G: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (Yes or No or N/A)				
1. Certified copy of Identity Document/Passport				
2. Certified copy of SANC registration card				
3. Proof of payment of SANC current annual fees				
4. Certified copy proof of primary qualification				
5. Certified copy of course(s) completed				
SECTION H: UNDERTAKING				
<p>1. I, _____ (name and surname) hereby accept and undertake to comply with all relevant legislation and policies regarding my Section 56(6) authorisation.</p> <p>2. The information furnished herewith is true and correct.</p>				
<p>_____</p> <p>APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE</p>			<p>_____</p> <p>DATE: dd/mm/yyyy</p>	



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 56(6) OF THE NURSING ACT, 2005 (ACT 33 OF 2005)

District/Municipality: _____

Full Name of Nurse: _____

ID/Passport Number: _____

Persal Number: _____ **SANC Reg No:** _____

Facility: _____

You are hereby authorised in terms of Section 56(6) of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act 33 of 2005) to perform the following functions, for a period not exceeding 3 (three) years:

- perform the physical examination of any person;
- diagnose a physical defect, illness or deficiency; and/or
- keep, prescribe, administer and dispense medicines.

You may only prescribe medicines for adults and children in accordance with the latest version of the Primary Health Care Essential Medicines List (PHC EML) and Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs), and associated provincial formulary or code list as approved by the provincial pharmaceutical and therapeutic committee, provided that you prescribe only medicines needed to treat conditions included in the courses you have completed.

You may only perform the functions authorised by Section 56(6) in public sector facilities in the district or municipality where this authorisation is granted.

You are to maintain legible, comprehensive clinical notes in the patient file and to complete the medicine register required.

This authority is granted by:

Name of Medical Practitioner in charge:

Signed at **on** **day of** **20**.....

Signature: **Qualifications:**

HPCSA No: **Tel: (.....)**

Address:

.....
.....