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Circulation date: 15 February 2024

Dear SADA Member

Welcome to the February 2024 Clinical Bulletin – your concise guide to pivotal updates in healthcare. In this issue, we spotlight the Minamata Convention on Mercury and its impact on dental practices in South Africa. Additionally, we highlight key scheme updates from GEMS and Discovery, emphasizing the need for practitioners to adapt to evolving policies. For quick access to 2024 tariff lists, visit the SADA website, and don't forget the approaching deadline for PCNS Annual Fees. Stay informed and navigate the healthcare landscape with ease.

CLINICAL

Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. It was named after the Minamata Bay tragedy in Japan, where industrial pollution led to severe mercury poisoning in the mid-20th century. The convention was adopted in October 2013 and entered into force in August 2017. Its key provisions include regulating mercury emissions and releases, controlling mercury-containing products and processes, promoting mercury-free alternatives, and addressing the storage and disposal of mercury waste. The convention provides a framework for international cooperation and coordination to address the global mercury issue.

Since South Africa is a signatory to the treaty, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment published regulations on the management of mercury on 6 July 2022. In response, SADA made extensive submissions, and all submissions were taken into account, as a result of which further draft regulations were published on 4 December 2023. The Convention's provisions for dental amalgam make it highly relevant to the dental profession, and dental amalgam is the *only* mercury-added product subject to a phase-down. All other uses of mercury in products addressed in the Convention are subject to a ban or phase-out.

Members need to note that the mandatory deadline for the installation of dental separators by those practitioners who place and/or remove amalgam restorations and/or remove teeth containing amalgam restorations has been amended to **1 April 2025**.

Scheme updates

GEMS

GEMS has introduced a time rule change in respect of crowns, applicable from 1 March 2024. The initial time rule of one crown per tooth every four years has now been amended to one crown per tooth every five years for GEMS options with this benefit. If a replacement crown is required within five years, the provider may follow the appeals process to motivate the replacement.

DISCOVERY

Discovery has advised that practitioners may bill SAMA Code 0201 – Cost of material in treatment – along with the NAPPI code of the product being used to claim for the cost of materials such as those associated with haemostasis control, e.g., BloodStop iX (Code 8221.)

Scheme tariff lists

Various members have contacted the SADA offices for the 2024 tariff lists of medical schemes. Please note that this information is available on the SADA website (www.sada.co.za) and may be accessed by following the steps below:

- Log in to the member's profile using their username and password
- Click on "Professional Resources"
- Click on "Clinical Resources"
- Click on "Medical Schemes"
- Download the relevant 2024 tariff list.

PCNS Annual Fees

Members are reminded that their annual fee for the renewal of their practice numbers with the BHF is due on 31 March 2024. The fees due are as follows:

PCNS PRICING TABLE 2024

HEALTH SERVICES APPLICATIONS	NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEES	ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE	NON-REFUNDABLE CHANGE OF PRACTICE TYPE	NON-REFUNDABLE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP	REINSTATEMENT
PUBLIC FACILITY PROVINCIAL AMBULANCES PUBLIC FACILITIES	R204.00	R192.00	R204.00	N/A	R204.00
SOLUS PRACTICE AHPCSA PROFESSIONALS HPCSA PROFESSIONALS PCDT PHARMACISTS SANC REGISTERED NURSES ONLY SOCIAL WORKERS	R761.00	R396.00	R781.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances on existing PCN</i>	N/A	R718.00
HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS AND DEVICES DENTAL LABORATORIES DEVICE SUPPLIERS DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHAB CENTRES HOSPICES MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS PHARMACIES	R814.00	R396.00	N/A	R837.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances on existing PCN</i>	R754.00
PARTNER PARTNERSHIPS INCORPORATED (one professional only) INCORPORATED PARTNER/S (two or more partners) OPTOMETRIST BRANCHES	R946.00	R396.00	N/A	N/A	R754.00
INSPECTED FACILITIES DAY CLINIC PHYSICAL REHAB CENTRE PRIVATE HOSPITALS SUB-ACUTE FACILITIES	R25 875.00	R396.00	R27 022.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances on existing PCN</i>	R27 022.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances on existing PCN</i>	*R754.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances. Subject to re-inspection if suspended for more than 1 year. Fee payable R24 521.00</i>
INSPECTED EMS AMBULANCE SERVICES	R20 484.00	R396.00	R24 424.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances on existing PCN</i>	R24 424.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances on existing PCN</i>	*R754.00 <i>Plus, any outstanding balances. Subject to re-inspection if suspended for more than 1 year. Fee payable R20 830.00</i>

To view your balance or make a payment please visit our website at: <https://www.pcns.co.za/Payment/CheckBalance>

CPD points Rules

The HPCSA has sent out messages to those practitioners who are non-compliant, i.e., do not have 50 clinical and 10 ethical CEUs within a 24-month rolling period.

Thus, if the total number of CEUs is over 60, but one of these categories does not meet the minimum requirements, it would still be considered non-compliant.

The number of CEUs to be accumulated per year by health practitioners who are active on the register is stipulated per profession below:

Dentist/Oral Hygienist/Dental Therapist

30 (min TOTAL CEUs per year) 5 (min CEUs for Ethics, Human Rights or Health Law)

Dental Assistant

15 (min TOTAL CEUs per year) 2 (min CEUs for Ethics, Human Rights or Health Law)

Please note the above figures are per rolling year. Currently, the HPCSA National Accreditors Forum utilizes a 24-month rolling period to monitor CPD calculations and therefore you would require double what is indicated above in a 24-month rolling year.

Access your HPCSA profile

To access your HPCSA profile please go to <https://hpcsaonline.custhelp.com> and click on Registered Practitioner Services

SADJ online – complete MCQ for CPD points

This is the link to access the SADJ's online: <https://www.sada.co.za/south-african-dental-journal-sadj>

How to Answer SADJ MCQs (Multi-Choice Questionnaires) online

All SADJ online CPD Questionnaires are valid for two years from the date of online publication. If you are not able to load the questionnaire to complete it may be as a result of expiry.

SADA has applied common practice ruling when seeking online information, when hovering over the graphic of the publication you wish to complete an MCQ for you will see various options.

- Users can either read the publication online.
- Users can download a PDF file to a computer or mobile.
- Links are displayed to complete either the Clinical or Ethical MCQ online for the issue that is being hovered over.
- Click on the link, complete your details as requested on the screen (these are required for your Certificate to be issued) and submit your answers.

Branch Events – where to go to book and earn CPD points

All SADA events are published online and available through this link for booking: <https://www.sada.co.za/events>

By attending a Branch event, Congress or Webinar you will receive CPD Points.

LEGAL

HPCSA Annual Fees 2024

The HPCSA on 9 February 2024, published the ANNUAL FEES payable by health practitioners effective on 1 April 2024.

DP Dentits: R3178.00
DP Dentist (Specialist): R3222.00
TT Dental Therapist: R2387.00
OH Oral Hygienist: R2387.00
DA Dental Assistant: R1001.00
SDA Dental Assistant Supplementary : R1001.00

Members are encouraged to use the HPCSA online services through the HPCSA website www.hpcsa.co.za to renew their annual fees.

A copy of the "HOW TO PAY AND ACCESS ONLINE CARD" is <https://hpcsaonline.custhelp.com> click on Annual Renewal Guide for Practitioners

According to the HPCSA once you have gone through the renewal process online, including making the appropriate payment, you will be able to view and/or print an electronic "QR coded" proof of payment of current annual fee renewal.

Yours in oral health

Dr Tinesha Parbhoo - Head Clinical Support

Punkaj Govan - Head Legal and Corporate

Members wishing to access 2023 circulated SADArise and Professional Advisory Bulletins must be logged in as a Member at www.sada.co.za
Go to the Main Menu Item: Publications and Press
Select Members Newsletters
Go to The SADArise or Professional Advisory Bulletins
to download or read online

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21 Feb	SADA Pretoria Branch AGM & CPD Evening (PTA055) - 21 February 2024
28 Feb	SADA Algoa Midlands CPD Evening 28 February 2024 (AM029)
02 Mar	SADA Western Cape - City Meeting - Lagoon Beach Hotel (WC058) - 2 March
06 Mar	SADA Free State Branch CPD Evening – 6 March (FS032)
07 Mar	SADA Limpopo Branch CPD Evening (LIMP031) - Drs Ambros & Koutras - 7 March
08 Mar	SADA Gauteng South Branch Mini Congress 8-9 March 2024 (GS067)
30 Aug	2024 SADA Dental & Oral Health Congress and Exhibition



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