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Dear Oral Healthcare Practitioner

**UPDATE: MEETING OF THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROFESSIONS BOARD WITH DENTAL AND MEDICAL STAKEHOLDERS – 9 JUNE 2023**

SADA took part in the stakeholder gathering that the HPCSA's Medical and Dental Professions Board organized. The Board's new chair is Professor JLA Rantloane.

Additionally disclosed was the appointment of Dr. Magome Masike as the next Registrar from May 1, 2023.

**CPD Non-Compliance**

The HPCSA has notified us that the sms sent to members on Friday the 8th of June, regarding CPD compliance was sent mistakenly. They will provide further communication regarding this issue. It has been clarified that the requirement is based on a yearly basis, which consists of 12 months. For instance, dentists need a total of 30 CEUs per annum, comprising 25 Clinical CEUs and 5 Ethical CEUs.

Although the initial message from the HPCSA may have been sent in error, we encourage you to utilize this period to ensure that you are CPD compliant.

On the other hand, we are delighted to announce that with immediate effect, SADA will handle the submission of all CEUs from the SADJ on behalf of individuals who complete and pass the SADJ questionnaires on our Flexiquiz platform. In other words, if you attend SADA events and or participate in the SADJ MCQs, there is no need for you to submit them to the HPCSA, as SADA will take care of the entire process. The CEUs report for events will be submitted to the HPCSA within 10 days following the event, while the SADJ CEUs report will be submitted on the first of each month for all SADJ MCQ activities done the previous month.

**Update personal information on the HPCSA new website**

Practitioners are advised to regularly update their personal data on the HPCSA register through the practitioners' online portal. They've also said that there's a new website, but many people are still using the outdated one, which isn't updated and doesn't contain the right information.

You are urged to clean your cache before using the most recent website that was just launched and updated. Additionally, it is better to email the HPCSA through their website rather than their email, which is difficult for them to follow. The emails through the website are tracked and they can see what issues have not yet been resolved.

**Review of Ethical Rulings**

SADA raised our extensive submissions to the Board to review ethical rulings some dating as far back as 1986 to October 2000 due to changes in prevailing circumstances under which dentists practice. The three submissions were in respect of:

**Split Billing** – we requested the Board to review their ethical ruling prohibiting split billing in the light of declining benefits and permit them to recover a portion of their fees from medical schemes and the balance from patients. Not all schemes permitted balance billing by practitioners.

**Advance Payment** – The Board was requested to review their ethical ruling that prevented practitioners from requesting fees in advance except for technician costs. This is also due to changed circumstances in that practitioners who embark on medium to long-term treatment plans can recover their costs during treatment or deposits prior to starting treatment.

**Review of scope of dentistry** – the Board is requested to review the present scope and permit dentists from carrying out aesthetic procedures in the facial area and not limited to oral and peri-oral areas.

The Chairperson undertook to place these long outstanding matters on the Agenda of the Board meeting to take place in about the next three weeks.

#### **Ad-Hoc Appeals Committee & Professional Conduct Committees Invitation – Closing Date 20 June 2023**

The HPCSA invites practitioners registered with the HPCSA and persons qualified in law to place their names on the Professional Conduct and Appeals Committee database. This invitation is open to all HPCSA registered practitioners. Please read the information documents. Please note that Curriculum Vitae (CVs) must be in line with the template provided and the Disclosures and Declarations document must be signed and included in your submission. Please note that correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates.

We call upon dentists and dental specialists who qualify and believe they can serve on these committees to be kindly requested to place their names to serve on these Committees.

The necessary documents shown in the table below can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.hpcsa.co.za/?contentId=510&actionName=Events>

#### **Document Name/Document Link**

CV Template ad-hoc Appeal Committee/ [View document](#)

Disclosure-Declaration/ [View document](#)

Information Document ad-hoc committee/ [View document](#)

Information Document Professional Conduct Committee/ [View document](#)

#### **Painful and Expensive Consequences of Restoration**

The MDB reminded stakeholders of the consequences of not paying their annual registration fees and having their names removed from the register and the financial penalties of restoring their names on the register.

Section 17 of the Health Professions Act (HPA) provides that no one may practise their healthcare profession unless registered with the Registrar, and deals with the procedure to obtain registration.

This requirement is reiterated in sections 34 and 39 of the Act, which prohibits healthcare practitioners from performing certain actions unless they are registered in terms of the Act. Contravention of this provision can result in a fine, imprisonment, or both

Section 18 requires the Registrar of the Council to maintain a register of all practising healthcare practitioners and the practical requirement that all registered persons who change their contact details must notify the registrar in writing within thirty days after such change.

Section 19 provides various grounds for removal of a practitioner's name from the register, which may occur if a practitioner is found guilty of unprofessional conduct, was registered fraudulently or in error, had their

degree revoked, and for various other serious misdemeanours.

There is another ground for removal from the register - a failure or refusal to pay their annual registration fee, three months after it has become due! Annual fees are payable by 1 April of every year. A practitioner may be suspended or removed from the register even if partial rather than full payment of the annual fees is not made.

Practitioners are reminded that annual fees are published on the HPCSA website and practitioners are notified via the e-Bulletin newsletter. Annual fee reminders were sent to the practitioners through emails and SMSs. Practitioners are also contacted by the HPCSA Call Centre reminding them to make payments. SADA sends out regular communiques reminding members to pay their registration fees.

Practitioners should use the Online Renewal Portal on the HPCSA website to enable practitioners to renew annual fees online.

Once they have gone through the renewal process online, including making the appropriate payment, practitioners will be able to view and/or print an electronic "QR coded" Proof of Payment for the current Annual Fee Renewal, which is official HPCSA proof that a Practitioner is up to date with their Annual Fee. Monies received from Practitioners will be allocated against the oldest debt first. It is important that Practitioners access the Online Renewals portal to ensure that there are no other outstanding balances due and payable

The Registrar must provide the healthcare practitioner with a notice of their removal from the register. This is given by way of certified mail address (i.e. registered mail), fax, or electronic transmission to the practitioner, at the address appearing in respect of that particular practitioner on the register.

### **Restoration and Penalties**

Where a practitioner has been removed from the register due to non-payment, he or she must pay all outstanding fees before their name may be restored on the register.

The Council penalizes practitioners for non-payment of annual fees and, if a practitioner wishes that their name to be restored on the register, the penalties are calculated as follows:

1. If a practitioner has been suspended or removed from the register for **less than 6 months**, they will have to pay the equivalent of twice the applicable fee for the current year plus the outstanding fee;
2. If a practitioner has been suspended or removed from the register for **more than 6 months**, but less than 12 months, they will have to pay the equivalent of four times the applicable fee for the current year plus the outstanding fee;
3. If a practitioner has been suspended or removed from the register for **more than 12 months**, they will have to pay the equivalent of five times the applicable fee for the current year plus the outstanding fee.

Practitioners who are specialists, sub-specialists or have an additional qualification are required to pay an additional fixed fee for their name to be restored. Where a practitioner is in arrears, any monies paid will be allocated first to the oldest debt.

Practitioners will be required to complete Form 18 available on the HPCSA website.

### **Implications of removal of practitioner's name from the register**

The implication of removal or suspension due to the non-payment of annual fees is enormous.

- practitioner's registration certificate is deemed to be canceled and must cease to practise until such time that his or her name is restored on the register.

- Medical schemes may block payments and claims for and on behalf of patients will not be paid to the practitioner or patients.
- Risk if the practitioner is subject to a civil claim or a complaint, an indemnity provider may not assist.

Yours in oral health

**KC Makhubele**

**Chief Executive Officer**

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## Upcoming Events



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