

- 2.2. It will be a whole qualification with only exit-level outcomes and assessment criteria consisting of elo's for the fundamental, core and electives.
- 2.3. The name of the 240 credit qualification and scope of the person with the qualification has to be revisited and confirmed.
- 2.4. The initial 240 credits should not contain elements in specific disciplines. Exposure to the different disciplines in Radiography could be accommodated in the curricula of the respective institutions.
- 2.5. Each institution can decide if they have the need to present the 240 qualification.
- 2.6. Re-entrance requirements into the additional 240 qualification will be formulated but has to include some electives (plus/minus 10%) from the initial 240 credits qualification "

At this stage it is not clear:

- whether the SGB has considered remuneration levels for the proposed 240 credit [2 year qualification] for diagnostic radiographers and whether organised labour has been consulted;
- what the employer's policy would be in terms of allowing those diagnostic radiographers with 240 credits employed in the public sector [state] institutions to re-enter the programme for career-pathing to exit with a 480 credit degree, i.e 4 year qualification on the NQF;
- how many learners per annual intake would be expected to exit with a 240 credit qualification after 2 years and whether they would be required to perform community service in public sector institutions after obtaining the qualification for full registration with the HPCSA;
- what the scope of practice would be for the proposed 240 credit diagnostic radiographic programme;
- whether the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) in terms of the Skills Development policy of the government will register the 240 credit qualification as a learnership in diagnostic radiography thereby promoting an early exit 240 credit qualification.

Based on the current path of proposed qualifications the SGB, on completion of the proposed qualifications, has to submit the documents to SAQA for accreditation on the NQF and registration on the National Learner Register Database (NLRD). Prior to accreditation and NLRD registration SAQA sends the documents to the NSB 09 for evaluation and when approved the proposed qualifications are then sent to the government printer for gazetting to ensure that interested persons are afforded an opportunity to comment within a specific time, such as within 30 days of publication of the government gazette. Documents/qualifications for public comment may also be downloaded from: www.saqa.co.za. Interested persons can register on-line with SAQA so that they are notified electronically of all new matters requiring public comment.

media statement by the HPCSA

CPD revised to accommodate stakeholders' input

Embargo: for immediate release; **Date:** 1 March 2005

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) has committed to reconfiguring its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme to ensure it addresses the ultimate objective of the philosophy of continuing professional development, the acquisition of new, current knowledge and measurable professional skills, with an end benefit to the patient or client.

In this spirit of dedication to best practice and a desire to act and serve wisely and well, Council's overarching CPD Committee re-worked the initial draft for a new system to incorporate the valuable inputs received from stakeholders.

The final proposal which will be tabled for approval to Council in April this year allows for the appointment of accreditors by the twelve professional boards which in turn will accredit a number of approved service providers. To ensure consistency in application of the guidelines for the approval of service providers it is proposed that one national Accreditors Forum be constituted with representation from each board's accreditors. Regular quality checks in terms of the service providers will be conducted by the Professional Boards and their approved accreditors. There will therefore no longer be an accreditation process of individual activities - the emphasis will be on the overall credibility, relevance and quality of the provider's credentials and activities.

Another major shift from the status quo would be that practitioners would no longer be required to submit proof of points (or as it is referred to in the new programme: Continuing Education Units (CEUs)) to the HPCSA, instead each practitioner would be required to maintain their own portfolio of CPD activities. Compliance checks will in future be conducted according to a random sampling method and the relevant practitioners will be requested to submit their portfolios to their Professional Board for this purpose.

The system also allows for a hierarchy of activities which should be looked at from a developmental perspective. Learning is structured in a hierarchy of three levels from traditional learning experiences such as conference presentations and workshops through to quality assurance audits of practices of groups of professionals in their work environments.

The system now truly rests on a foundation of trust and the HPCSA believes that professionals will commit themselves to meeting the requirements (30 CEUs per year or 60 CEUs over 24 months across all Professional Boards which will be valid for a period of 2 years from date of accrual) for continuing education in the belief that they, together with their patients or clients, will reap the benefits of ongoing learning as well as personal and professional development.

Pending Council's approval in April, the final reconfigured CPD system will be piloted by two or three Professional Boards in order to smooth out the implementation. It needs to be emphasised that the current CPD system will remain in place for Boards that are not involved in piloting the new system, as CPD remains an ethical as well as statutory obligation. The only deviation is that practitioners are requested not to submit their portfolios but to retain them for possible assessment

The full final draft document will be available on www.hpcsa.co.za shortly.

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