

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR EMERGENCY CARE

REVISED RESTORATION AND REGISTRATION GUIDELINES – FORM 341

BACKGROUND

In line with section 17 of the Act the Health Professions Act no 56 of 1974, individuals wishing to practice a healthcare discipline that falls within the ambit of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) are required to register with Council before practicing that profession. There may be instances where individuals are erased/removed from the register for a variety of reasons. After erasure/removal from the register, these individuals may want to apply for registration once again after a certain time period. Due to not being registered, these individuals would not be engaged in clinical practice.

As a result, not engaging in clinical practice for a certain time period, may result in subsequent decline in clinical skill and professional performance.^{1,2,3} If the individual is allowed to once again register and practice without refreshment, remediation and subsequent competency assessment, this creates a patient safety issue and possible healthcare provider litigation situation. In 2014, the General Medical Council (GMC) in the United Kingdom (UK) commissioned a study to determine the rate at which this decline occurs as well as suggestions to remediate skill decline before allowing healthcare providers to reengage in clinical practice. The study found that depending on the nature of the skill, it was found that skill decline can occur between three and 18 months. A number of remediation and assessment techniques are suggested.²

Aside from skill refresher training and assessment, supervised clinical practice and peer review, the HPCSA Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians reported the findings from a multidiscipline workshop investigating the role of a National Board Examination for practitioners who have been deregistered previously. The report suggested that this examination is common practice amongst various professional boards.⁴

1. Donovan JJ, Radosevich DJ. A meta-analytic review of the distribution of practice effect: now you see it, now you don't. *Journal of Applied Psychology*. 1999;84(5):795-805.
2. General Medical Council. Skills Fade: A Review of the evidence that clinical and professional skills fade during time out of practice, and of how skills fade may be measured or remediated. 2014; http://www.gmc-uk.org/Skills_fade_literature_review_final_Report.pdf_60956354.pdf
3. Grace ES, Korinek EJ, Weitzel LB, Wentz DK. Physicians reentering clinical practice: characteristics and clinical abilities. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*. 2011;31(1):49-55.
4. Health Professions Council of South Africa: Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians. Report of the Workshop on a National Board Examination: Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians. June 2015. Health Professions of Council of South Africa.

RESTORATION AND REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY CARE PROVIDERS

**Regarding the below – certain activities may require the applicant to be registered as a student emergency care provider in the relevant category*

Basic Ambulance Assistant (BAA), Ambulance Emergency Assistant (AEA) and Operational Emergency Care Orderly (OECO)

One to two years since removal from relevant register – HPCSA approved refresher course with a summative assessment.

Two years and more since removal from relevant register – HPCSA approved refresher course with an examination at a Board approved institution (University/Higher Education Institutions). The examination may include a set of Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), a written theoretical examination as well as a paediatric and adult patient simulation and will be moderated by a PBEC-appointed moderator. Examinations may be attempted twice. Additional attempts will not be permissible.

Where OECOs (who holds active registration within this category) wish to register in the AEA category – HPCSA-approved refresher course with a summative assessment.

Paramedics (ANT), Emergency Care Technicians (ECT) and Emergency Care Practitioners (ECP)

One to two years since removal from relevant register – Three critical case reflections whilst conducting supervised clinical practice (conducted and assessed by a Higher Education Institution). In addition, being found competent in one set of practical assessments (OSCEs and a simulation - inclusive of a paediatric and adult emergency). [This process would require temporary registration as a student with the HPCSA] One remediation opportunity for each assessment is permissible (i.e. one set of OSCEs and one adult and/or paediatric simulation).

Two years and more since removal relevant register – Three critical case reflections whilst conducting supervised clinical practice (conducted and assessed by a Higher Education Institution). In addition, being found competent in an examination held annually by Board approved institutions. The examinations may include a theoretical assessment, a viva voce assessment, a set of OSCEs and an adult and paediatric simulation assessment. This examination will be moderated by a PBEC appointed moderator. All assessments must be passed in one examination sitting. If unsuccessful, one entire additional assessment opportunity may be granted. [This process would require temporary registration as a student with the HPCSA].