

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**NO. 1477**

**5 November 2021**

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO.56 OF 1974)**

**REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

The Minister of Health intends, under section 33 (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotist / Prosthetist, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance), [mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za](mailto:mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za) within three months of the date of publication of this Notice.



**DR M.J PHAAHLA, MP**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH**

**DATE:**

10/09/2021

## SCHEDULE

### Definitions

1. In these regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates —

**"activity"** means a productive action required for development, maturation and used for sensory, motor, psychological, social and cognitive functions, with or without yielding an object and/or an action as a vehicle to acquire, maintain or redevelop skills necessary to fulfil occupational roles and provide satisfaction;

**"occupation"** means the ordinary, everyday things that individuals and communities do to meet daily and human development needs across the life span which may be culturally determined and which unfolds within the contexts in which people live, learn, work and play;

**"occupational risk factors"** means occupational deprivation, -imbalance, -alienation and/or -restriction;

**"pre-occupational categories"** means factors that enable or restrict occupational participation and are addressed in the following categories by mechanical, neurological, psychosocial, sensory and perceptual and interpersonal skills; and

**"the Act"** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974).

### Specific occupational therapy acts

2. The following acts are hereby specified as acts which shall, for the purposes of the application of the Act, be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of occupational therapy:

- (a) All acts within the profession that take place within the foundational- and occupational conceptual frameworks of occupational science, including but not limited to:
  - (i) The assessment and evaluation of occupational performance through observation, the use and interpretation of various standardized and non-standardized tests, activities, interviews, questionnaires, instruments, apparatus, devices or similar method for the determination of participation

- categories of occupation of individuals or groups of persons in whom these are impaired or at risk of being impaired;
- (ii) The assessment and analysis of the contexts and environments in which the individuals or groups of persons live, work, learn, play, and interact socially;
  - (iii) The assessment and analysis of occupations;
  - (iv) The identification of occupational risk factors; and
  - (v) The provision of intervention to address occupational risk factors.
- (b) The use of any occupational therapy method, technique or procedure to:
- (i) Promote health, prevent disease and improve quality of life;
  - (ii) Prevent occupational dysfunction and to promote, develop, and habilitate ability to participate in occupation by means of active participation in meaningful and purposeful occupations and activities;
  - (iii) Improve, remediate, rehabilitate, and maintain participation in occupation or to compensate for occupational dysfunction by means of active participation in meaningful and purposeful occupations and activities;
  - (iv) Adjust the environment to ensure accessibility and to facilitate active participation in all areas of occupation by persons who are occupationally at risk; and
  - (v) Adjust and adapt activities and occupations or prescribe assistive technology to facilitate active participation in all areas of occupation by persons who are occupationally at risk.
- (c) The use and application of appropriate methods and techniques preceding and during activity participation to facilitate such participation; and
- (d) The control, development, management, and quality assurance of occupational therapy programs.

### **Occupational- and pre-occupational categories of the occupational therapy profession**

3. Occupational therapists must enable participation and enhance performance in the following categories of occupation:

- (a) Education and learning: Committed occupations for the advancement of human skills and potential.
- (b) Leisure: Discretionary occupations to meet recreational and social needs.
- (c) Personal and Community Living: All occupations necessary for the care of self, dependents and the lived environment. These include those occupations that facilitate community and civic participation. Activities related to rest and sleep are also included.

- (d) Play: That which is done in structured and unstructured ludic engagements, that may or may not involve playfulness; which refers to player disposition or attitude.
- (e) Social participation: Occupations that constitute interactions with family, peers, friend and community members.
- (f) Work: Contracted occupations for formal and informal income generation and volunteerism.

#### **Pre-occupational categories**

4. Occupational therapists operate in the following pre-occupational categories by addressing engagement and or performance through activities that are meaningful, goal-directed and purposeful in addressing:

- (a) Biomechanical and Neurological factors;
- (b) Interpersonal factors
- (c) Psycho-social (including cognition, volition and affect) factors; and
- (d) Sensory and Perceptual factors.

#### **Repeal**

5. The regulations defining the scope of the profession of occupational therapy as published under Government Notice No. R2145 in *Government Gazette* No. 14178 of 31 July 1992 are hereby repealed.

#### **Short title**

6. These Regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Occupational Therapy, 2021.