

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. R. 744

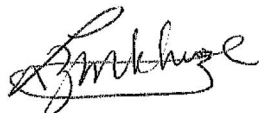
03 JULY 2020

**NURSING ACT, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005)**

**REGULATIONS REGARDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES**

Minister of Health, intends, after consultation with the South African Nursing Council, the Minister of Health, under section 58(1) (q) of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005), to make the Regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit substantiated comments or representations, in writing, on the proposed amendments to the Regulations, to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance, Ms M Mihloti.Mushwana@health.gov.za), within one month of the date of publication of this Notice.



**DR ZWELINI LAWRENCE MKHIZE, MP**  
**MINISTER OF HEALTH**

DATE: 18/06/2020

## SCHEDULE

### Definitions

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

“**child**” has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Children’s Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005);

“**healthcare unit**” means a subdivision of a health establishment;

“**plan of care**” means a plan of care developed for a healthcare user by a professional nurse or midwife;

“**scope of practice**” means the parameters within which a category of nurse or midwife may practice;

“**standardised plan of care**” means a generic care plan developed for specified conditions or interventions;

“**supportive care**” means all services which enhance the other elements of care essential to individualised care, including health education, advocacy and counselling; and

“**the Act**” means the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005).

### Scope of practice of a professional nurse

2. (1) The professional nurse may perform the following: -
  - (a) manage nursing care of individuals, groups and communities;
  - (b) provide emergency care;
  - (c) ensure disaster preparedness and response
  - (d) ensure the safe implementation of nursing care and the execution of treatment and or the administration of medication prescribed by an authorized registered person;
  - (e) delegate of nursing care, ensuring that nursing care is only delegated to competent practitioners or persons;

- (f) prepare and provide supportive nursing care to a patient throughout the diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic acts;
- (g) facilitate the attainment of optimum health for the individual, the family, groups and the community;
- (h) develop an integrated, comprehensive nursing care plan for the promotion of activities of daily living, self-care, treatment and rehabilitation of health care users, also taking cognisance of natural, biological and psychosocial sciences;
- (i) provide direction for the implementation of the nursing care plan;
- (j) provide supervision for nursing care and execution of treatment;
- (k) initiate and maintain a therapeutic relationship with all health care users;
- (l) facilitate the establishment and maintenance of an environment in which health care can be provided safely and optimally;
- (m) review the nursing practice continuously against professional standards and relevant context;
- (n) facilitate the continuity of care in collaboration with relevant members of the health care team;
- (o) manage effectively a health facility or service;
- (p) assess the health care information needs, and plan and respond accordingly;
- (q) assess health care needs of individuals and groups;
- (r) diagnose and prioritise individual health and nursing care needs, based on comprehensive analysis and the interpretation of data;
- (s) manage and coordinate nursing care within the health care setting;
- (t) refer a healthcare user timeously and appropriately to other members of the multidisciplinary team;
- (u) evaluate a healthcare user's progress towards expected outcomes and revise health and nursing care plans in accordance with evaluation;
- (v) create and maintain a complete and accurate nursing record for individual healthcare users;
- (w) promote and empower healthcare users through health counselling and education to participate in health care to achieve self-reliance;

- (x) implement relevant nursing protocols and guidelines;
- (y) integrate psycho-social care in the management of individuals, groups and communities; and
- (z) provide end of life care within the context of care;
- (2) The professional nurse must practice in terms of the code of ethics for nurses.
- (3) The professional nurse must implement and manage a quality improvement plan for own context of practice.
- (4) The scope of a professional nurse shall include the scope of a midwife.

#### **Scope of practice of a general nurse<sup>1</sup>**

3. (1) A general nurse may perform the following: —
- (a) manage nursing care of individuals, groups and communities;
  - (b) provide emergency care;
  - (c) plan, prepare for, and execute a unit evacuation plan;
  - (d) ensure the safe implementation of nursing care and the execution of treatment and or the administration of medication prescribed by an authorized registered person;
  - (e) delegate nursing care, ensuring that nursing care is only delegated to competent practitioners or persons;
  - (f) prepare and provide supportive nursing care to a patient throughout the diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic acts;
  - (g) facilitate the attainment of optimum health for the individual, the family, groups and the community;
  - (h) develop a general nursing care plan for the promotion of activities of daily living, self-care, treatment and rehabilitation of health care users, taking cognisance of natural, biological and psychosocial sciences;
  - (i) provide direction for the implementation of the nursing care plan;

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<sup>1</sup> Nursing Categories as created by Notice Regarding Creation of Categories of Practitioners in terms of the Nursing Act 33 of 2005, Notice 939, Gazette No. 42545 of 28 June 2019.

- (j) provide supervision for nursing care and execution of treatment;
  - (k) initiate and maintain a therapeutic relationship with health care users;
  - (l) facilitate the establishment and maintenance of an environment in which health care can be provided safely and optimally;
  - (m) review the nursing care plans continuously against professional standards and relevant context;
  - (n) facilitate the continuity of care in collaboration with relevant members of the health care team;
  - (o) effectively manage a unit within a facility;
  - (p) assess the health care information needs, and plan and respond accordingly;
  - (q) assess health care needs of individuals and groups;
  - (r) diagnose and prioritise individual health and nursing care needs, based on comprehensive analysis and the interpretation of data;
  - (s) manage and coordinate nursing care within a unit;
  - (t) refer a healthcare user timeously and appropriately to other members of the multidisciplinary team;
  - (u) evaluate a healthcare user's progress towards expected outcomes and revise nursing care plan in accordance with evaluation;
  - (v) create and maintain a complete and accurate nursing record for individual healthcare users;
  - (w) promote and empower healthcare users through health counselling and education to participate in health care to achieve self-reliance;
  - (x) implement relevant nursing protocols and guidelines;
  - (y) integrate psycho-social care in the management of individuals, groups and communities; and
  - (z) provide end of life care within the context of care;
- (2) The general nurse must practice in terms of the code of ethics for nurses.
- (3) The general nurse must implement and manage a quality improvement plan for own context of practice

- (4) A general nurse may not
  - (a) take responsibility and accountability for managing overall nursing care in a health establishment; and
  - (b) set up or conduct a private practice.

#### **Scope of practice of a midwife**

- 4. (1) A midwife may perform the following-
  - (a) ensure a safe environment to prevent and manage mother and neonatal safety events;
  - (b) promote health and wellness of the woman, and her family for pregnancy, birth, and parenthood;
  - (c) assess and diagnose the health needs and the facilitate the attainment of optimum physical and mental health for the mother and neonate;
  - (d) provide evidence- based information to support the woman's decision making across the midwifery continuum of care;
  - (e) promote comprehensive reproductive health within the family context;
  - (f) promote, maintain, restore and support the health status of a woman during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
  - (g) facilitate the physiological processes during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
  - (h) provide comprehensive care of a woman during pregnancy, labour and puerperium in all health care settings;
  - (i) identify prevent and manage complication of pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
  - (j) monitor and document comprehensively the health status of the woman in labour; to detect and manage complications;
  - (k) monitor and document comprehensively the health status of the neonate to detect and manage complications;

- (l) ensure the safe implementation of woman- centred maternal and neonatal care in line with relevant protocols and guidelines;
  - (m) provide emergency obstetric care;
  - (n) keep accurate and legible midwifery records;
  - (o) advocate for the woman, baby and family;
  - (p) provide end of life care within the execution of the midwifery regime;
  - (q) refer a woman and neonate with high risk conditions to an appropriate level of care within the continuum of care;
  - (r) manage a midwifery unit according to the relevant guidelines and protocols;
  - (s) delegate midwifery care, ensuring that such care is only delegated to competent practitioners or persons;
  - (t) develop and implement an integrated comprehensive, midwifery and neonatal care plan;
- (2) A midwife must practice in terms of the code of ethics for nurses
- (3) A midwife must implement and manage quality improvement plan for own context of practice
- (4) A midwife may not
- (a) set up a private practice without obtaining a licence in terms of relevant legislation; and
  - (b) act as an assistant surgeon to a medical practitioner

#### **Scope of practice of an auxiliary nurse**

5. (1) An auxiliary nurse may perform the following:
- (a) provide basic nursing care as determined and delegated by a professional nurse or general nurse;
  - (b) provide basic nursing care in accordance with a standardised plan of care;
  - (c) provide assistance and support to a person for the activities of daily living and self-care;
  - (d) render basic first aid;

- (e) initiate and maintain a therapeutic relationship with health care users and
  - (f) provide assistance, health education and support to individual patients, families and communities to promote health, prevent injuries and illness and maintain the health status of all health care users and
  - (g) provide end of life care within the context of care.
- (2) An auxiliary nurse –
- (a) may only render basic nursing care that is based on a prescribed plan of care and set standards;
  - (b) must be supervised by a professional nurse, general nurse, registered nurse in situations where there is no prescribed plan of care, or set standards; and
  - (c) may not set up or conduct a private practice.

### Repeal

6. The following Regulations published in the *Gazette* are hereby repealed:

<b>Government Notice No.</b>	<b>Date of publication</b>	<b>Extent</b>
R.2598	30 November 1984	Chapter 3: Regulation 3 and Chapter 6: Regulation 6
<b>As amended by:</b>		
R.1469	10 July 1987	
R.2676	16 November 1990	
R.260	15 February 1991	

### Short title

7. These Regulations are called Regulations Regarding the Scope of Practice for Nurses and Midwives, 2020.