

The South African Society of Physiotherapy™ (SASP®)

HMI submission – 1 March 2018



WHAT IS PHYSIOTHERAPY?

Physical therapists provide services that develop, maintain and restore people's maximum movement and functional ability. They can help people **at any stage of life**, when movement and function are threatened by ageing, injury, diseases, disorders, conditions or environmental factors.

Physical therapists help people maximise their quality of life, looking at **physical, psychological, emotional and social wellbeing**. They work in the health spheres of **promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habilitation and rehabilitation**.

(ref. www.wcpt.org)



SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation
- Neurology
- Musculoskeletal
- Sports injuries
- Women's and men's health
- Older persons – e.g. prevention of falls
- Paediatric conditions – neonatal, CP, ICU, developmental delay etc.
- Pain management
- Lymphedema management
- Mental Health management
- Bio-psycho-social approach
- Palliative care, e.g. cancer or HIV patients
- In different media e.g. aquatics physiotherapy
- In all settings from home-based care to Specialised units, including occupational health settings



STATUS

- First line practitioners since 1984
- National footprint of physiotherapists to assist with UHC in South Africa



WHO IS THE SASP?

- Professional body for Physiotherapists
- Founded in 1924
- NPO, public benefit organisation
- Representing 4595 physiotherapists, students and technicians working in public and private sectors.
- Ratio in SA: 1 PT:7518 (Dec 2016)
- Only representative for South Africa at the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) – 350 000+ physios around the world.



WE SUPPORT

- Universal access to physiotherapy/rehabilitation services
- Central database to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of facilities and quality rehabilitation services
- Collaboration between different regulatory bodies and government departments
- Close collaboration between NDOH and the provincial DOHs. Provinces should not function independently.



HEALTH ESTABLISHMENT

Defined in Chapter 6 of National Health Act (NHA) as follows:

“the whole or part of a public and private institutions, facility, building or place, whether for profit or not, that is operated or designed to provide inpatient or outpatient treatment, diagnostic or therapeutic interventions, nursing, rehabilitative, palliative, convalescent, preventative or other health services.”



HMI OBSERVATIONS AND REMEDIES

It appears to only relate to hospitals, day hospitals, other hospitals such as rehabilitation hospitals and potentially public sector facilities. It is important to clarify the HMI's use of "facilities or "establishments".

If it is used in a broader sense to include for example private practices and palliative care centres, the remedies proposed have far-reaching implications, which require further consultation and discussions.



STREAMLINING BETWEEN RELEVANT REGULATORY BODIES

To address regulatory fragmentation in licensing and accreditation of different health establishments, e.g.

- HPCSA – licensing vs registration
- Office of Healthcare Standards Compliance (OHSC) – accreditation of Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) and facilities
- Practice Coding Numbering System (PCNS) – license to practice
- Certificate of Need (CON) – where to practice



COLLABORATION BETWEEN REGULATORY BODIES

- The function, roles and coordination between the different regulatory bodies are unclear and need to be clarified.
- **Close interaction**, coordination and **clear role definitions** are vital for all regulatory bodies i.e. HPCSA, CMS, National Department of Health (NDOH), OHSC and Department of Education.



PCNS

- As physiotherapists (all HCPs) we need to adhere to ethical rules and legislation set by HPCSA and NDOH
- PCNS needs continuous updating and maintenance
- Do not support to be BHF
- Do not support to be on provincial level as that would add to the fragmentation of such a service
- **Do support the PCNS system to be managed by an independent central body**



CERTIFICATE OF NEED

- Infringe on the economic and professional rights of physiotherapists.
- Seems to be anti-competitive and also means that CON holders have no incentive to improve quality. What is HMI's view?
- Not supported as it currently stands without regulation and further consultation.
- HMI should not include discussions about CON with NDOH at this stage, unless clarity is given on anti-competitive behaviour.



PRIVATE PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

- Voluntary process since 2009, based on ISO9000 international criteria.
- 5 Standards:
 - ✓ Practice Management
 - ✓ Operational guidelines and policies
 - ✓ Human Resource Management
 - ✓ Facilities and equipment Management
 - ✓ Quality assurance



ACCREDITATION CONT.

- A comparison between the Norms and Standards, which were recently published, and the SASP accreditation programme, indicate that they overlap by 98%.
- Currently 34 physiotherapy practices are accredited and 50 practices are in the process of becoming accredited.
- Once the OHSC is ready to accredit practitioners, the role of the SASP will change to guide and educate our members in preparation for accreditation and NHI.



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