

# HEALTH MATTERS

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## HPC introduces Continuous Professional Development Standards

As part of its ongoing activities for this year, the Health Professionals Council (HPC) will be introducing standards for continuous professional development (CPD) which registrants will need to complete for continuing registration. Completing CPD is important for all professionals to keep abreast with the latest development in their field and to ensure evidence-based practice.

### CPD definition

CPD can be defined as **“a range of learning activities through which health professionals maintain and develop throughout their careers to ensure that they retain their capacity to practice safely, effectively and legally within their evolving scope of practice.”** (Continuing professional Development and your registration. Health & Care Professions Council. Information for registrants; HPC UK)

### Will CPD be mandatory?

Since the CPD system is new to HPC, all professionals will be given the chance to become familiar with recording their CPD activities. There will be a series of orientation workshops throughout 2017 to sensitise all professionals on the CPD process and what is expected of them. The date, time and venue for these workshops will be communicated in due course.

All professionals are encouraged to log their CPD activities as they complete it for ease of reference at the point of registration. This will give the HPC board members an idea of how many hours and what kind of activities have been completed by the professional.

Once fully established and regulations are in place in future, CPD will become mandatory. It is therefore advisable for all health professionals to start familiarising themselves with this system now.



### Maintaining CPD records

All professionals are encouraged to keep records of their CPD activities in a portfolio which they should keep updating.



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## ARTICLES

HPC introduces CPD standards continued ...

### What should be included in the portfolio?

There is no one-way of how your portfolio should be, however below is a guide to help you get started.

- A cover (title page)
- Table of contents
- Documentations to support your practice e.g. CV, job description, scope of practice
- Evidence of specific CPD activities completed such as for example:
  - Certificates
  - Publications
  - Reflective writing journals

Any other documents that will support your completed CPD activities

All new registrants will be given a copy of the printed 'Guide to our standards of continuing professional development (CPD)' at registration.

For more information please visit the HPC website where more information will be made available in the near future.



## First Intercouncil Meeting

As part of the initiative to foster good professional working relationship with our partners in Health, the three (3) health Councils held their first "Inter-Councils" meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. This took place at the SMDC office at the La Ciotat Building. Present during the meeting were the leaders of the respective Councils, namely Dr. Bernard Valentin (Chairperson – SMDC), Dr. Susan Fock Tave (Registrar – SMDC), Mrs. Patricia Rene (Chairperson HPC), Mr. Daniel Belmont (Vice-Chairperson HPC), Mr. John Dubel (Chairperson – SNMC) and Mrs. Winnifred Agricole (Registrar – SNMC).

Many topics pertaining to health professionals in general were discussed during the meeting. It was noted that the three Councils are health councils and as such should not be functioning in isolation. Networking is vital for the Councils' advancement and a source of information for more effective and dynamic operations. Other pertinent issues also visited during the meeting included international memberships, fiscal budgeting, CPD events, legislation, registrant identity badges, scope of practice amongst others.

The meeting received positive reviews from the Councils' heads. It is expected that such will be continuous throughout the year. After all, we aspire to improve the health of our nation.



*State Registration  
for Nurses and Midwives*



## Monitoring and Enforcement Committee investigates Registrant

Following complaints lodged in December 2016 from the general public regarding a HPC registered Dental Technician possibly practicing outside the scope of practice, the HPC Monitoring and Enforcement Committee conducted a site visit to the registrants business premises.

The main area of concern during the visit were the range of services currently offered versus the scope of practice for Dental Technician.

It was found that the technicians establishment had what appeared to be a dental chair available, and failed to provide evidence of referrals of patients from dentists for services, this being a major requirement of the scope of practice. Along with these findings, it was discovered that the registrant held a licence from Seychelles Licencing Authority as a Dental Technologist, as the title is protected under the HPC act further discussion with SLA are planned to resolve the issue and to prevent such occurrences from happening again.

A follow up meeting was conducted in February to discuss these findings with the Registrant in question. The registrant was advised on the importance of working on patients on referral basis as per the scope of practice for Dental Technicians, refraining from advertising to the general public and that the target audience for his services should be Dentists, and the importance of keeping appropriate documentation. The registrant was also invited to attend the Medical Liability seminar being conducted by the Councils and the Health Department.

The registrant viewed the issues discussed and advice given as positive criticism and assured the Committee that he will do his utmost to abide.

## Health Careers Week 2017

The National Institute of Health and Social Studies (NIHSS) as well as the Ministry of health have noted a significant decline in the number of individuals choosing a career in Health.

In an effort to create a sustainable flow of recruits in health related career fields the Councils HPC, SNMC, and SMDC along with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education have developed a plan for an annual Health Careers Week in the hopes of promoting early interest in healthcare careers among youth.

The first Health Careers Week was conducted recently during the week of 12th July—16th July 2017.

The Councils along with members of the Ministry of Health conducted recruiting seminars in all Government schools on Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue targeting students from S1 to S5.

The Health Professionals Council assisted by developing posters, leaflets with information on careers paths for specific Allied Health Careers, and a presentation which highlighted the importance of Allied Health, the different cadres and what qualifications a student would need to pursue a career in a specific allied health field.

Feedback from the week was very positive, a great number of students signed up to learn more about Health related careers, the database will be used to organize visits and work experience programs during school holidays.

The councils stressed that the Health Careers week is a good initiative but it must not stop there.





## Adverts



The Health Professionals Council (Seychelles) is proud to present its official website. For all the latest news pertaining to HPC registrants, complaints, disciplinary actions, list of registered allied health professionals, join us at [www.hpcseychelles.org](http://www.hpcseychelles.org).



Subscribe to our mailing list for all the latest updates ... at work, in the comfort of your homes or on the go!!

*It is your responsibility as an allied health professional to ensure that your registration with the Council is current and valid. It is against Seychelles' law to be practicing as an allied health professional without having been registered (Health Professionals Act 2006)*

*For more information on your registration status, kindly contact the HPC Registrar on (+248) 4303745 or email [registrarhpc@health.gov.sc](mailto:registrarhpc@health.gov.sc)*

Do you have any interesting articles, stories or news related to your profession that you would like to share with the rest of the professional community? If yes, kindly send your submissions to the [Editorial Committee](#).

***We are here ...***

