

HEALTH MATTERS

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WE'VE MOVED !

The Health Professionals Council is excited to announce that our offices have moved to a new location. For the past few years our offices were housed in the Docklands building New Port. Although our old office space served us well, and we made great strides there, we couldn't help but feel we needed more space.

Our new address:
Health Professionals Council (Seychelles)
Room B2
Block B
Residence D'Hermitage
Hermitage
Mont Fleuri

Tel: (+248) 4303745 or 2606128

There are several advantages to the new office:

Space. The new office offers more square footage, and more importantly it has allowed us to rethink our layout. Overall, we now have a more compartmentalized layout for better confidentiality during meetings, and registrants benefit from our new comfortable reception.

Location. What a difference a mile makes. Our new office is within immediate walking distance of the Seychelles Hospital Mont-Fleuri, where the majority of our registrants are currently working.

This new location is the start of a new chapter. If you're in the area, feel free to stop in for all your HPC needs.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support during the interruption of service while we were relocating.



ARTICLES



HPC plans to implement Scopes of Practice by mid 2018

One of the key roles of HPC is to regulate and protect allied health professions as well as clients availing of allied health services in Seychelles. To better achieve this, members of the Council found it necessary to develop Scopes of Practice for each Cadre.

Members along with key personnel in each field met to discuss and develop the Scopes during the final months of 2017. The Scope of Practice document is currently in the final stages of formatting, before being officially implemented as of mid 2018.



What is a Scope of Practice?

'Scope of practice' is a concept that several professions use in the context of professional regulation. The scope of practice sets the range of roles, which a registered professional has the education, competence and authority to perform.

What is the purpose of a Scope of Practice?

The purpose of the Scope is to provide allied health professionals as well as their employers guidance and support on matters relating to their clinical practice. This could be in the form of developing Job Descriptions, understanding what an allied health profession of specific cadre is permitted to do and what is beyond their scope.



Why should I be interested in a Scope of Practice?

Allied Health professions have a social mandate to provide distinctive services. So it is appropriate that HPC should respond to the ever-changing needs of the population and the health service. Professionals are, therefore, required to be proactive in identifying areas where an expansion in their scope of practice would lead to improvements in patient outcomes and in the quality and range of available services. To support role expansion, managers, employers and organizations have a responsibility to put appropriate policies, procedures, protocols in line with the guidelines in place.

How does a Scope of Practice work?

This scope provides guidance to all allied health professions in determining their roles and responsibilities in relation to the provision of safe, quality patient care.

The Scope fulfils several functions in that it:

- Acts as a framework to support decision-making related to allied health professionals' everyday practice.
- Helps allied health professionals as well as their employers to identify professional development needs.
- Provides a basis for the expansion of allied health roles.
- Encourages reflective practice to improve learning and the provision of safe, quality patient care.
- As an enabling framework, it also emphasizes individual accountability in making decisions about their roles and responsibilities. It is therefore, an empowering resource for practitioners.



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

April has been designated Autism Awareness and Acceptance month. In Seychelles, like in many other countries around the world, various activities aiming to deepen awareness and understanding about autism were organized during the month of April. It was also an opportunity for individuals and organizations to show support for people with autism and their families by reading up on autism online or in newspapers, attending a public lecture or professional development session, participating in the fun run, or joining the 'light it up blue' campaign.

Of course, for individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who work with them, autism is not just for the month of April each year. Autism is a complex lifelong neuro-developmental condition which affects the person's ability to communicate and develop relationships with others, and is associated with restricted and repetitive behaviors and interests. Symptoms exist from early childhood, although for some people, the challenges become more apparent when they're older. Exactly what autism is like is different for each person. It also changes depending on the stage of life, the current environment and supports available, and on the skills they have been able to learn.



It might be asked, 'why are we hearing so much about autism now? Is it something new? Do we have a lot more cases than we did before?' These are not straightforward questions to answer. Certainly more people are being diagnosed with autism in recent years compared to previously. It is thought that this is at least partly due to changes in how autism is conceptualized and diagnosed, as well as increased awareness. Since the multidisciplinary ASD diagnostic team (which includes 5 HPC registrants from the psychology, speech pathology, and occupational therapy cadres as well as a paediatrician and a paediatric nurse) was set up in Seychelles late in 2012, around 100 children have been diagnosed with ASD. Close to 30 more are waiting to complete the assessment process. Aside from these young children, we can expect that there are older children, adolescents, and adults with autism in our society that we have not yet identified.

AUTISM
AWARENESS

Continues page 4 ...

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

The picture in terms of autism prevalence in Seychelles may not yet be clear but it is evident that high quality assessment and intervention services that address the varied needs of the autism population are required. Significant progress has been made in this regard over the last 7 years or so, although services are limited by various factors, the chief among which is the severe lack of professionals in certain allied health and education fields. Challenges in accessing certain specialist resources and further training also exist.

In spite of the barriers, efforts are being made to equip our professionals with the skills and knowledge to serve the autism population. Since the start of 2018, for example, sensitisation and training sessions were conducted for allied health professionals, among others, by Myriam Castagne from ALEFPA (Reunion), a workshop on using the M-CHAT, a screening tool for autism symptoms in young children, was facilitated Dr Erna Athanasius and Ms Irene Jumeau from the Early Childhood Intervention Centre, and as part of Seychelles first autism conference held in early April, a series of presentations was given by Josef Schovanec.



Josef Schovanec

Philosopher, writer, and autism advocate, who is himself a person with autism.

As part of their daily work, HPC registrants, such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists, together with colleagues in other fields, work with individuals with autism and their families, to try and contribute to their wellbeing and development. They frequently wish they had the capacity to do more for their existing clients and that services could reach those who do not yet have them. They feel often overworked, at times underappreciated and, occasionally discouraged. We would like to recognise all of our registrants who, in one way or another, serve people with autism.

*Biomedical Laboratory Scientists
respond to the global threat*

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

**International Biomedical
Laboratory Science Day**

April 15, 2018 | www.ifbls.org



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Taking a moment to acknowledge biomedical laboratory science

Organized annually by the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS), International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day is celebrated 15th April to raise awareness of the vital role biomedical laboratory professionals play in diagnostic and preventative healthcare.

The purpose of the annual celebration is to educate the public in the hard work that biomedical laboratory professionals do in quality development, diagnosis, treatment, research, and public healthcare.

IFBLS President Marie Nora Roald stated:

“Biomedical laboratory scientists are one of the largest groups of health care professionals yet our role in medicine is poorly understood by the patients and their families and even our colleagues within health care administration.

A biomedical laboratory scientist finds out the causes of the disease which ensures better treatment and cure. We understand the work we do and its significance to the patients. We are the experts in our field and the very best people to carry our message.”

In Seychelles a total of 69 men and women are registered with the Health Professionals Council of Seychelles to practice in this field both in public and private sector labs.

Despite the many challenges Biomedical laboratory professionals investigate tissue and body fluid samples to diagnose disease and monitor the treatment of patients. From screening cancer to diagnosing HIV, from blood transfusion to food poisoning and infection control, biomedical scientists are an integral part of modern healthcare, working in partnership with medical practitioners, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

This year's theme is *Antibiotic resistance: biomedical laboratory scientists respond to the global threat.*

**Not All Heroes Wear Capes,
Some Wear Lab Coats.**

Honor Your Ability and Dedication to Saving Lives!



ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE WHAT YOU CAN DO



Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.



- 1 Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional
- 2 Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better
- 3 Never use left over antibiotics
- 4 Never share antibiotics with others
- 5 Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding contact with sick people and keeping your vaccinations up to date

www.who.int/drugresistance

#AntibioticResistance



World Health Organization

Antibiotics are medicines used to treat bacterial infections. When bacteria develop the ability to resist the effects of Antibiotics it is referred to as Antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic resistance evolves naturally via natural selection, but the process can be accelerated by poor antibiotic stewardship.

Biomedical Science professionals work closely with other health professionals such as Medical Practitioners and Pharmacists by providing valuable statistical data regarding organisms isolated in patients and their current resistance or susceptibility to different antibiotics.

HPC takes this opportunity to thank all members of the Biomedical Science field for their dedication and contribution towards a healthier Seychelles.

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

Emergency Medical Technicians respond to various emergency situations, ranging from someone who may be having a heart attack in their home to multi-vehicle accidents on the highway.

EMTs are most frequently found in ambulances but they can also provide care for patients being transported by air as well as by sea. They play a vital role during medevac, which is the stable transportation of sick and injured patients to and from different islands.

HPC has registered a total of 23 Emergency Medical Technicians, who are working with the Ministry of Health.



Activities organized by Seychelles Emergency Medical Technicians for Emergency Medical Services week include:

- ♦ Training sessions and sensitization for drivers and porters at Baie Saint Anne Praslin Hospital
- ♦ Social gathering in appreciation of present and past Emergency Medical Technicians



SPOT

A moment with Mrs. Marguerite

Mrs. Anne-Marie Marguerite, a resident of Pointe Larue, is one of the longest serving Allied Health Professionals in the Ministry of Health. Currently Mrs. Marguerite is working at the Rehabilitation Services Unit as an Occupational Therapy Technician.

Mrs. Marguerite has had a long career in Health care having worked for the Ministry of Health for 40 years. Her career began at the Mental Home where she worked for 5 years before moving to the Fiennes institute for 12 years. She then moved on to the Seychelles Hospital day unit and finally returned to the Mental home at North East Point where she has been working for the last 19 years.

A very humble individual, Mrs. Marguerite's biggest achievement is setting up the Therapeutic Garden at the Mental Home at North East Point.



Mrs. Margeurite and her patients enjoying a moment in the Therapeutic Garden.

The idea came about as she felt her patients were somewhat neglected, not having transport and opportunities to take them for outings. Mrs. Marguerite took matters into her own hands and initiated the Garden Project which is a huge success amongst her patients and peers.

When asked about her views on the poor recruitment of new staff as well as the ongoing issues with staff retention, Mrs. Marguerite was adamant that the solution is to ensure staff are given equal opportunities to further their careers.

Although she will qualify for retirement in a few years' time, Mrs. Marguerite is still very passionate about her patients and informed HPC she will gladly volunteer if the Ministry needs her help.

A message she has for all staff:

“Keep on working hard so that you can achieve what you deserve, with God's blessing.”

– Mrs. Anne-Marie Marguerite

ADVERTS



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Seychelles

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The Health Professionals Council (Seychelles) is proud to present its official website.

For all the latest news pertaining to HPC registrants, complaints and disciplinary actions.

Visit us at www.hpcseychelles.org



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It is your responsibility as an Allied Health Professional to ensure that your registration with the Health Professionals Council Seychelles is current and valid.

It is against Seychelles' law as an Allied Health Professional without a valid registration.
(Health Professionals Act 2006)

For more information on your registration status,

Visit our [online register](#)

or

Contact the HPC Registrar on

Tel: (+248) 2303745

Email: 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 registrarhpc@health.gov.sc

We are here ...

