

2021—International Year of Health and Care Workers
(YHCW)

#SupportHealthCareWorkers



Chairperson's Message



Dear Readers,

At a juncture when Seychelles strives towards becoming a safe haven and a covid free destination, both for its citizens and visitors, WHO has launched a year long campaign - **“Protect. Invest. Together.”** - in appreciation and gratitude to all healthcare workers in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

This theme calls on everyone to ensure that all healthcare workers are supported, protected, motivated and equipped to deliver safe health care at all times. I therefore urge everyone to join hands and support one another to adapt to the changing times and environment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all healthcare workers for their unwavering dedication. Together we shall ensure the highest standards of practice and patient safety.

Chairperson—Mrs Corinne Ryan

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We would love to hear from you

Let us know what you would like to be included in the newsletter

Email: registrarhpc@health.gov.sc

Any complaints please visit our website: <http://www.hpcseychelles.org/complaints/>

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

— George Bernard Shaw

“Although difficult, change is always possible. What holds us back from making the changes we desire are our own limiting thoughts and actions.”

— Satsuki

Greetings!!

The new **Education and Training Sub-committee** is made up of a vibrant team of Allied Health professionals excited to contribute to the Council for the next two years. The team consists of Morison Julie, Emma Cadeau, Jeanne Fanny-Al-Abdulla, Rose-May Benoit, and Jose Emmanuel.

The principal role of the Education and Training Sub-Committee is responsible for promoting and facilitating **continuous professional development (CPD)** in the health professional council for its registrants. It is paramount to continue with CPD because it ensures you continue to be competent in your profession. It is an ongoing process and continues throughout a professional's career. It should be engaging and fun too.

In line with our role, and current gathering restrictions due to COVID-19, we are anticipating a move towards online CPD as a new platform. A calendar of activities will be provided to all the different cadres to prepare and submit their dates, topics, and activities of their choosing. It will be accessible to all members with a valid registration. Additionally, online articles will be published on the HPC website and Facebook platform with referenced sources where registrants can read and keep pace with new developments. These could be used as CPDs for your portfolio. On this note, let us call upon all registrants with referenced and beneficial articles to share with HPC to publish on the e-platform.

Meanwhile, the Education and Training Sub-Committee is also embarking on another ambitious and arduous exercise, which is to implement the CPD point system. The CPD point system is a tool used to keep track of how much continuous professional development a registrant has done throughout their two years of registration. It will be recorded and compiled upon reviewing a registrant's CPD portfolio, especially for renewal of registration. It is adamant to note that it is your responsibility to provide CPDs that accumulates enough points for eligibility for renewal of your registration with the HPC.

HPC will be releasing a guideline amongst other useful tools and materials as to how many points are required per qualification, with the aim of implementing these requirements more strictly during the course of the year. Are you registered? Do you have a valid license? Do your part and become a professional with a valid license, if you are already registered keep pace with your profession and current standards do not stay behind, as the currency of your knowledge and skills becomes outdated.

Sub-committee Chairperson Mr. Morison Julie

Click Me!

The image shows a collage of official forms from the Health Professionals Council (HPC) of Seychelles. The forms include a CPD log, a registration form, and a participation record. Overlaid on these forms is a large, light blue cloud graphic containing the following text:

- Cost Per Dollar
- Cut and Polished Diamond
- Customers Per Day
- Certified in Plumbing Design
- Compound
- Cheese Pâté Duluc

www.facebook.com/HPC Seychelles

DID YOU KNOW? Legal Sub-committee

One of the key function of the Council is to *'monitor the competence and regulate the performance of Health Professionals in Seychelles for the purpose of promoting and upholding the highest possible standard of their practice'* (section 4(1) (a) Health Professional Council Act 2006).

Evidently, registration alone does not guarantee continued compliance by Health Professionals to regulations and standards. Continuous monitoring is essential throughout the tenure of registration. To accomplish this in practice, the Council has established various mechanisms, which includes evaluation of academic certification by the Seychelles Qualification Authority, a monitoring team to carry out inspection in workplaces, and formed partnerships with key government entities like the Department of Immigration.

If all these are implemented effectively, it is expected to enhance the identification of unregistered practicing AHPs, ensure compliance to set regulation, and uphold standards of practice.

Monitoring and Enforcement Sub-committee

The new committee for the next two years has as its members Nadia Valentin, Patricia Rene, Jeanne Fanny-Al-Abdulla, Lisa Chetty, Emelyn Shroff and Jose Emmanuel.

This year, we are working on different council matters and on our committee's goals. In line with our mandate we intend to start monitoring visits of the different establishment in April 2020 whilst keeping in line with current COVID-19 restrictions guidelines.

The team is therefore calling on all registrants to ensure that they have a valid registration which is of paramount importance to their scope of practice... **always have your identification badges at hand**. Furthermore, we will also be collecting additional information whilst on the ground to ensure an updated register of applicants and practices/establishments. This also forms part of implementing the different SOP's that were developed last year.

Lastly, the monitoring of conduct and performance to ensure protection of the public remains one key aspect of the council. So a calling to all - practice effectively and lawfully within your scope of practice.

Extra!

How many cadres of health professionals are being regulated under the [Health Professionals Act, 2006](#)?

How many sections are there in the act?

Which section(s) reference the register?

Does section 13 have to do with offences?

UPDATE YOURSELF

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The Drug Quality Control Laboratory (DQCL) received international accreditation last week. May you please provide further insight?

We started operations back in 2001, analyzing both locally manufactured and imported medicines. Since 2014, we realized that a laboratory needs to be accredited for it to be internationally recognized, so that when a result is reported it is valid internationally. Also, if any issues arise regarding to the quality of medicines, public will be aware that there are competent staff as well as a very efficient quality management system in place. This is the main reason why DQCL had to be accredited.

Is the DQCL part of the Public or Private sector and which sector does it benefit?

At present, we are part of the HCA, under the care of the Ministry of Health. We are not a fully autonomous body, as we are fully funded by the government. However, once our legislation the “Medical Products and Pharmacy Operations Bill” is enacted, the DQCL would also be able to provide the same quality service as we offer to the Government’s Pharmaceutical Services.

The accreditation is according to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. What is this standard and what does it stand for?

This standard is specifically for calibration laboratories, as well as testing labs, like DQCL, which provides the testing of medicine, water etcetera. Our lab has been accredited according to this for the scope of pharmaceutical products. The scope of accreditation includes High Performance liquid chromatography and UV-VIS spectrophotometry. The standard itself revolves around the management system of labs as well as the technical competency of the staff.

The accreditation is from which body?

DQCL was accredited by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS). SADCAS is an accreditation body which ensures that the members of SADC that provide conformity assessment services such as calibration, testing, medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies to be recognized in providing quality and competent services after they have been evaluated and observed as competent.

What are the benefits of the accreditation?

Firstly, you will most definitely receive credibility. Like in any business, the more credible you are, the more clientele. The more clients have access to us, the more revenue is contributed towards the country. Seychelles currently ranks as the 8th Accredited Pharmaceutical Quality Control Laboratory in the African Union and 3rd in the SADC region. Additionally, if anyone is willing to test their sample, they will, without question, look towards an accredited laboratory to do so. In long-term, this outside service can be a revenue for the country as we build our capacity.

Accreditation also builds clients trust in us. Being an internationally recognized Laboratory implies that we can provide consistent service with minimal or no errors. With around 98 to 99 % of pharmaceuticals being imported into Seychelles, if we happen to encounter an out-of-specification or substandard or falsified medicines, we can report it to the manufacturer or supplier and be acknowledged for the investigation, rather than being taken up to task. The process of being accredited also helped us in seeing what we were missing, as a team and as individual personnel. The entire process of accreditation helped us in becoming the confident, competent group we currently are, as well as fixing and updating our programs, and processes to provide a precise and accurate service.

CONGRATULATIONS



The DQCL staff comprises of three strong and devoted ladies. The competent team members are;

Mrs. Dhana Sasikumar, a pharmaceutical specialist practitioner that has over 18 years of working with DQCL. She is followed by veteran Miss Wilhelmina Clarisse, a senior pharmacy technician with an amazing 40 years of service. And finally, the youngest pharmacy technician with 2 years of practice, Miss Laura Zialor.

Working in DQCL requires patience and perseverance. All this would not have been possible without the continuous support the staff receives from management. Although the three ladies are up for any challenge, DQCL is eager to invite new staff to work in their team, so long as they have a background in pharmacy and/or biomedical lab science.

A penny for your thoughts

What is Universal Health Coverage (UHC)?

What percentage of the world's population still do not have full coverage of essential health services?

What is the gap between the current global health work force and those still needed today for UHC? 5 million? 18 million? 40 million? Zero?

19.9 million children are still vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases. True? False? Which diseases?

World Health Organization (WHO), (2021). Universal health coverage (UHC). [online] Available at: [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-\(uhc\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc))