



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: NURSING-CIRC-1/2018

To: Provincial Heads of Health

CIRCULAR TO GUIDE PROVINCES ON UTILISATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS FOR CLINICAL PLACEMENT BY NURSING EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

1. The National Department of Health (NDoH) is currently facilitating implementation of new nursing programmes that will lead to registration in the categories contemplated in section 31 of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act 33 of 2005). These programmes are aligned to the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework and offered in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Higher Education and Training.
2. In line with provisions of the South African Nursing Council (SANC) Government Notice No. 173 of 08 March 2013, all public and private NEIs that will require to place their students in public health establishments for clinical training are required to submit a letter of support signed by provincial Heads of Health (HODs) before application for accreditation by both Council on Higher Education (CHE) and SANC is considered.
3. HODs receive numerous requests for letters of support from private nursing education institutions (NEIs) to place students in public health establishments for clinical training.
4. At its meeting held in February 2018, the Technical Committee of the National Health Council resolved that the Director-General would provide guidance to HODs for managing these requests.
5. Guidance is hereby provided as follows:
 - a) Priority for placement of students should be given to public sector NEIs; namely, nursing colleges and universities.
 - b) Request for letters of support from private NEIs should be considered in relation to provincial plans for human resources.
 - c) Existing memoranda of agreements (MOAs) that were entered into between provinces and NEIs with regards to legacy programmes should remain valid in line with the stated programme and dates of expiry of MOAs.
 - d) New MOAs between provinces and NEIs will have to be entered into to support implementation of new nursing programmes.
 - e) Request for letters of support from private NEIs for the new qualifications should indicate evidence of existing clinical training facilities outside of public health establishments. These clinical training facilities, should be SANC-accredited and aligned to SANC guidelines per programme.
5. The implementation of this circular becomes effective on the date of issue.

MS MP MATSOSO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH

DATE: 23/11/2018