

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR DIETETICS

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Colleague

NEWS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR DIETETICS

I trust that you have received your CPD point status for the period ending 31 August 2001. If you have any queries, please contact the ADSA CPD Office (PO Box 641, Bloemhof 641 or e-mail edelweis@iafrica.com) **before 15 July 2002**.

Thank you for the support and understanding that we have received regarding the changes to the financial management of the CPD system. The payment of the once off yearly handling/administrative fee will streamline the management of the CPD Office tremendously.

MOST IMPORTANT: Please remember to indicate your **invoice number** as the **reference number** on the bank deposit slip when you make your CPD payment. Without the invoice number it is impossible to trace the payments.

For those of you who are still uncertain about the functioning of the various CPD related bodies, I will try to explain briefly: The HPCSA consists of 9 Professional Boards (Dietetics being one of them). Each Professional Board appoints its own Accreditor(s) to run the CPD system. In the case of the Medical and Dental Professions Board, there are about 19 Accreditors. For Dietetics we have appointed only one Accreditor. (ADSA performs that function for us.) Each of the various Accreditors has to run its CPD Office independently from the Professional Board. The fee structures and management procedures differ, but the CPD guidelines are applied the same throughout. For instance, the financial handling of the Medical Accreditors differ between the Accreditors. Some of the Accreditors ask no administrative fee, but for each accreditation application the individual has to pay anything from R150 up to R250 per application. Other Accreditors ask accreditation fees as well as payment per CPD points allocated (up to R20 per point). In the case of our system, we have a once off yearly administrative/handling fee of R150 for ADSA members and R300 for non-ADSA members and no further payment for individual accreditation requests or points accrued. The lower fee for ADSA members serves as a benefit of ADSA membership. ADSA contributes 15% of the annual full membership fees to the administration of the CPD Office.

Cross accreditation of CPD activities

The HPCSA has recently approved the principle of cross accreditation of CPD activities. This means that professionals from various professions can attend appropriate multi-disciplinary CPD activities. For instance, a dietitian can attend an activity that has been accredited by any of the Medical Accreditors and the Dietetics Accreditor will acknowledge the same number of CPD points awarded. Please ensure that you receive a certificate of attendance with the relevant accreditation number and your own registration number (DT number).

The ADSA CPD office can accommodate cross accreditation if the following guidelines are followed by the individual:

- When a dietitian attends an activity accredited for any other health profession, it is the responsibility of the dietitian to forward the information to the ADSA CPD Office.

- The dietitian must send a completed *Form CPD3-DT* with the attendance certificate, containing the correct DT number, to the ADSA CPD Office.
- The application will not be reassessed and a new number will not be allocated.
- The accreditation number and number of points allocated for the activity will be used as such.
- The points will be allocated in the same category as indicated on the attendance certificate.
- No direct feedback will be given to the dietitian that the application has been received. It will, however, be reflected on the yearly point update.
- These applications must reach the ADSA CPD Office within 2 months after the activity.

Requests for deferment / voluntary removal of your name from the register

A few requests have been received by the Professional Board. Regarding the management of CPD points, the CPD Committee has at its last meeting decided the following:

Guidelines for dietitians for whom deferment was granted:

- If the dietitian has points in the "kitty" accrued during 1999, 2000 and 2001, it will be transferred on the same principle as for all other dietitians, i.e. a maximum of 40 points per year will be transferred for 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- If the dietitian has points in the "kitty" accrued from 2002 onwards, it will be transferred on the same principles as for all other dietitians, i.e. a maximum of 40 points will be transferred to the consecutive year only.
- The points will only be transferred and kept in the kitty if payment is up to date, including the yearly handling/administration fee.
- Points cannot be accrued during the period for which deferment has been granted.
- The dietitian will be given the opportunity to indicate whether she/he wants to keep the points in the "kitty".

Guidelines for dietitians who requested voluntary removal and intend to reregister again in the future:

- The same principles for voluntary removal will apply.

Protecting the profession

The Professional Board and the Council of the HPCSA have approved the establishment of registers for Nutritionists and Food Service Managers. This was submitted to the Minister of Health for promulgation. The Professional Board, in consultation with relevant role players, is working on the scope of practice and the educational and training requirements for persons to be registered as Nutritionists and Food Service Managers. Through negotiations with the Department of Health, we have also been able to "secure" jobs for registered dietitians in the sense that positions for people performing the work of dietitians are now being filled appropriately and the requirement for registration with the HPCSA is now included in the relevant advertisements. The Committee of Preliminary Inquiry of the Board is also dealing with complaints referred to the Professional Board for Dietetics.

Training

The new entry-level requirements (previously known as the *Minimum requirements for entry level dietitians*) have been finalised and implemented at all the universities. As of 2003 university evaluations will be done according to the new guidelines. If you would like to receive a copy of the new entry-level requirements, it can be requested from the Secretary of the Professional Board for Dietetics.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. We will try to address them as quickly as possible,

All the best for the rest of the year.

Kind regards

DR RENÉ BLAAUW
CHAIRPERSON: PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR DIETETICS