



SAPC e-Note



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Dear Pharmacist,

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The South African Pharmacy Council (henceforth “Council”) published the draft [Criteria to accredit a generic short course for a pharmacist who wishes to apply for registration as a Responsible Pharmacist](#) on 24 November 2023 and invited stakeholders, including all pharmacists, to comment on this proposed Criteria for a period of 60 days following publication, which period ends on 24 January 2024.

We have noted unfounded claims and conspiracy theories concerning the proposal for this course, largely circulated on social media. We wish to indicate that the purpose of the draft criteria and the intended course is to strengthen Responsible Pharmacists in executing their role and ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and roles, as trends in disciplinary cases indicate that a significant number of Responsible Pharmacists lack an understanding of their responsibilities. The course also seeks to operationalise the requirements of Regulation 28(2) of the [Regulations relating to the practice of pharmacy](#), which requires that a Responsible Pharmacist should have appropriate qualifications.

The introduction of the requirement to complete a short course does not affect persons who are registered as pharmacists for more than three years and are already registered as Responsible Pharmacists at the time of implementation.

The malicious and baseless claims circulating on social media and elsewhere are just mischievous innuendos by delusional characters within society and should be dismissed with the contempt they deserve. We wish to assure the profession that:

1. Council is an independent non-partisan, non-racial, non-sexist, and apolitical regulator. We do not tiptoe around political, commercial or quasi-ideological interests and/or pressures.
2. Responsible Pharmacists who are already currently registered as such and have been registered as pharmacists for at least three years are exempted from the requirement to complete the short course (draft Criteria).
3. The length of the course is 70 notional hours (\pm two weeks), not the three months currently in circulation.
4. Council will not be deriving any fees from the tuition and/or provision of the course.
5. Council is in talks with sector education and training authorities to potentially fund the course fees of enrollees.

To ensure your voice is heard, we recommend that all pharmacists having a comment on the published Board Notice to email such comments to BN@sapc.za.org by 24 January 2024. This will ensure that Council considers your views in deciding further concerning the proposed course.

Yours faithfully,

VM Tlala
Registrar/CEO

Accessible quality pharmaceutical services for all