

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGISTRAR

26 MARCH 2020

STATE OF DISASTER: COVID19 PANDEMIC: AHPCSA EXCO DIRECTIVE

Pursuant to a number of enquiries received by the AHPCSA, I am directed to inform you, on behalf of the AHPCSA Exco, that the following AHPCSA Exco directive now applies during the State of Disaster period of lockdown and/or until a further directive issued by the AHPCSA or the AHPCSA Exco:

1. LEGAL ASPECTS OF LOCKDOWN

The purpose of the Lockdown is to **enforce isolation** to prevent the spread of the virus further throughout the South African population. While you are allowed to receive patients, should you have chosen to keep your practice open, **reception of patients is in essential cases only, namely for emergency cases only.** For any other patient queries you must use telehealth/telemedicine according to the Guidelines and Board Notice published on the AHPCSA website on 25 March 2020. In the event that you receive any essential patient, namely as an emergency, you are required to adhere the principles to ensure the safety of your patient by conforming to the safety directives and protocols issued by the Minister of Health, the National and Provincial Departments of Health or any other South African healthcare authority. In summary, therefore, **assess the risk-benefit ratio and only see patients in extreme need / emergency at your registered place of practice on a face-to-face basis and use telehealth/telemedicine in all other instances.**

2. PERMIT TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL SERVICE

The above-mentioned permit is issued to you in your **individual capacity** as a practitioner or therapist for the purposes of performing an essential service. This permit:

- does not permit you to conduct your healthcare practice as you would in normal circumstances;
- is not transferable to any member of staff for whatever reason and is practitioner / therapist specific and limited;
- may not be edited, emended or changed in any way or manner whatsoever and is required to be presented to any law enforcement officer as issued by the AHPCSA, together with a copy of your registration certificate and the appropriate identification document;
- is subject at all times to the Laws of South Africa and prescribed regulations and protocols from time to time by government.

3. NON-COMPLIANCE

Any non-compliance with the above directive shall be regarded as unprofessional conduct and may furthermore liable to possible prosecution by National Authorities.

DR LOUIS MULLINDER
REGISTRAR: ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA