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Government Notices

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

No. 328

2022

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF STUDY FOR
REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL SCIENTISTS, RESTORATION OF NAME TO
REGISTER AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF MEDICAL SCIENTISTS:
MEDICAL AND DENTAL ACT, 2004

Under section 59 of the Medical and Dental Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), read with section 19(1) of that Act, and on the recommendation of the Medical and Dental Council of Namibia, I make the regulations set out in the Schedule.

DR. K. SHANGULA
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Windhoek, 5 September 2022

SCHEDULE**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Definitions
2. Minimum requirements for registration of medical scientist
3. Application for registration
4. Register of medical scientist
5. Scope of practice of medical scientist
6. Restoration of name to register
7. Language of forms and documents

Definitions

1. In these regulations a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act has that meaning and, unless the context indicates otherwise -

“certified” means certified as a true copy of the original by a commissioner of oaths appointed under section 5, or designated under section 6, of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 1963 (Act No. 16 of 1963);

“equivalent qualification” means a qualification obtained after full-time education, tuition and training in a similar course and comprising of similar subjects as set out in these regulations;

“medical scientist” means a person registered under section 19 of the Act; and

“the Act” means the Medical and Dental Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).

Minimum requirements of study for registration as medical scientists

2. (1) The Council may register a person as medical scientist if that person -
 - (a) holds a Bachelor of (Medical) Science honours degree; or
 - (b) an equivalent qualification;

and has completed full-time education, tuition and training of at least four years.

(2) A qualification prescribed by sub-regulation (1), must include the following subjects -

- (a) biology;
- (b) biochemistry;
- (c) chemistry;
- (d) physics;

- (e) biophysics;
- (f) genetics;
- (g) human anatomy and physiology;
- (h) medical microbiology;
- (i) haematology and transfusion;
- (j) immunology;
- (k) histology and histochemistry;
- (l) diagnostic cellular pathology;
- (m) pathophysiology; and
- (n) mathematics and statistics.

Application for registration

3. (1) A person applying as a medical scientist in terms of section 19 of the Act must, in addition to the documents specified by subsection (2) of that section, submit a certified copy of the identity document or valid passport of the applicant.

(2) The Council may require the applicant to furnish proof, in the manner that the Council may determine, of the proficiency of the applicant in the English language.

(3) A person currently registered under the Act as a medical scientist at the commencement of these regulations is considered to be registered as a medical scientist under these regulations.

Register of medical scientist

4. The register of medical scientists established and kept in terms of section 23(2) of the Act must contain, in addition to the particulars specified by subsection (3), any -

- (a) particulars that Council may determine, and
- (b) change in particulars recorded in the register.

Scope of practice of medical scientist

5. The scope of practice for medical scientist includes -

- (a) developing, evaluating and practising of scientific procedures which involve humans, human biological material or medical equipment;
- (b) patient genetic counselling;
- (c) designing and conducting studies that investigate human diseases and methods to prevent such diseases and treatment;

- (d) preparing and analysing medical samples and data to investigate causes and treatment of toxicity, pathogens or chronic diseases;
- (e) standardising scheduled substance potency, doses and methods to allow for the mass manufacturing and distribution of scheduled substances and medicinal compounds;
- (f) creating and testing medical devices;
- (g) developing programs that improve health outcomes;
- (h) procedures and research to invent new treatment options, scheduled substances or vaccines;
- (i) performing research on specimens and conduct clinical investigations; or
- (j) observing change in health and human behaviour to advance human health and wellbeing.

Restoration of name to register

6. An application in terms of section 25(1) of the Act for the restoration of the name of a person to a register must be accompanied, in addition to the documents and particulars specified by subsection (2) of that section, by -

- (a) a certified copy of the applicant's identity document or passport, and
- (b) the original registration certificate issued to the applicant under section 20(4)(b) of the Act or a certified copy of the certificate.

Language of forms and documents

7. (1) Subject to sub-regulation (2), any document required to be submitted to the Council or the registrar in terms of these regulations, must be in the English language.

(2) Any document that is not in the English language must be accompanied by a sworn translation of it in the English language.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

No. 329

2022

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF STUDY FOR REGISTRATION AS DIETICIAN, RESTORATION OF NAME TO REGISTER AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF DIETICIAN: ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 2004

Under section 55(1)(d), (n) and (t) of the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004), read with section 19(1) of that Act, and on the recommendation of the Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia, I -

- (a) make the regulations set out in the Schedule; and

- (b) repeal the Regulations Relating to the Minimum Requirements of study for Registration as Dietician published under Government Notice No. 67 of 20 April 2009 and Regulations relating to the registration of Dieticians, Dietician Interns, qualifications that may be registered as additional qualifications, maintaining of registers and restoration of a name to a register published under Government Notice No. 69 of 20 April 2009.

DR. K. SHANGULA
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Windhoek, 5 September 2022

SCHEDULE

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Definitions
2. Minimum requirements of study for registration as dietician
3. Application for registration as dietician
4. Registrable additional qualifications
5. Restoration of name to register
6. Language of forms and documents
7. Scope of practice of dietician

Annexure A

Definitions

1. In these regulations, a word or expression defined in the Act has that meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise -

“certified” means certified as a true copy of the original by a commissioner of oaths appointed under section 5 or designated under section 6 of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 1963 (Act No. 16 of 1963);

“equivalent qualification” means a qualification obtained after full-time education, tuition and training in a similar course and comprising of similar subjects as set out in these regulations;

“medicine” means medicine as defined in section 1 of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Act No. 13 of 2003);

“practitioner” means a person registered and authorised to practise under the -

- (a) Social Work and Psychology Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004);
- (b) Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004);
- (c) Nursing Act, 2004 (Act No. 8 of 2004);
- (d) Pharmacy Act, 2004 (Act No. 9 of 2004);

(e) Medical and Dental Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004); and

“the Act” means the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004).

Minimum requirements of study for registration as dietician

2. (1) Subject to other requirements of the Act, the Council may register a person as a dietician, if the person holds -

- (a) a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics;
- (b) a Degree in Dietetics;
- (c) a Diploma in Dietetics; or
- (d) an equivalent qualification,

after receiving full-time education, tuition and training at the educational institution for a period of not less than four years.

(2) The education, tuition and training for the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) must include practical sessions with a focus on clinical nutrition for a period of not less than 28 weeks.

(3) The education, tuition and training for the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) must include the following subjects -

- (a) chemistry or physics;
- (b) biology;
- (c) basic food or food technology;
- (d) biochemistry;
- (e) microbiology;
- (f) physiology or anatomy;
- (g) basic nutrition, human nutrition or nutrition in the life cycle;
- (h) dietetics;
- (i) pharmacology;
- (j) psychology;
- (k) clinical nutrition, therapeutic nutrition or medical nutrition;
- (l) community nutrition;
- (m) food service management;
- (n) research methodology; and
- (o) research project.

Application for registration as dietician

3. (1) A person may apply for registration as a dietician in terms of section 20 of the Act and that application must be -

- (a) submitted to the registrar in the form determined by the Council;
- (b) accompanied by -
 - (i) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant;
 - (ii) the payment of the application fees determined by the Council; and
 - (iii) additional documents that the Council may require.

(2) The Council may require the applicant to furnish proof of his or her proficiency in the English language, in the manner that the Council may determine.

Registrable additional qualifications

4. (1) The additional qualifications referred to in Annexure A of these regulations may be registered by the Council as additional qualifications under section 32(1)(a) of the Act and such additional qualifications must be entered by the Council next to the name of a dietician in the register in terms of section 32(4) of the Act.

(2) An additional qualification that is not referred to in Annexure A, may be entered by the Council next to the name of the applicant in the register, if the requirements under section 32(5) of the Act have been complied with.

Restoration of name to register

5. An application for the restoration of the name of a person to the register under section 26(1) of the Act, must in addition to the documents and particulars referred to in subsection (2) of that section, be accompanied by -

- (a) a certified copy of the identity document or a certified copy of the passport of the applicant; and
- (b) the original or a certified copy of the registration certificate issued to the applicant in terms of section 21(4)(b) of the Act.

Language of forms and documents

6. (1) A document required to be submitted to the Council or the registrar in terms of these regulations must be in the English language.

(2) A document referred to in subregulation (1) that is not in the English language must be accompanied by a sworn translation of that document in the English language.

Scope of practice of dietician

7. (1) A dietician, in the conducting of his or her practice must -
- (a) assess nutrition related to the health status and the conditions of a person;

- (b) manage and deliver nutrition therapy to treat diseases or conditions;
 - (c) manage food systems; or
 - (d) build the capacity to promote or restore health and prevent disease or conditions through nutrition and related means.
- (2) The scope of practice of a dietician is to -
- (a) advise on diet, food and nutrition;
 - (b) promote health and illness prevention strategies, promote specialised nutrition therapy and rehabilitation and support strategies to address specific nutrition related illnesses;
 - (c) identify and evaluate nutritional risks in a person;
 - (d) assess nutritional health needs and develop nutrition related priorities, goals and objectives to establish and implement nutrition care plans;
 - (e) assess, recommend and implement orders that are specific to diseases or conditions and the orders must be approved by the referring practitioner;
 - (f) provide nutrition counselling and nutrition education as components of preventative, curative and restorative health care;
 - (g) periodically monitor, evaluate, reassess and intervene in order to manage and prevent the disease, injury or condition;
 - (h) prescribe diets, oral nutritional supplements or enteral feeds;
 - (i) conduct nutrition case findings and make referrals to a practitioner;
 - (j) advise on medication adjustments of orders that are specific to diseases or conditions, in consultation with the referring practitioner for timely accessible nutrition care; or
 - (k) evaluate, educate and provide counselling related to food and medicine interactions, nutrients and medicine interactions or determine appropriate nutrition quality standards in food service or nutrition programs.
- (3) The functions of a dietician includes -
- (a) providing nutrition counselling, nutrition behavioural therapy, lactation counselling, health coaching and providing nutrition and health education as components of preventative therapeutic or restorative health care;
 - (b) evaluating, educating and providing counselling related to nutritional genomics, gene diet or disease interactions, food and medicine interactions, nutrients and medicine interactions or supplement and medicine interactions;
 - (c) educating on food security, food safety, sustainable resilient healthy food environmental food, water systems or nutrition issues; or

- (d) managing and working in catering kitchens and developing normal menus, medical menus or meal plans as required.
- (4) Medical conditions for which dietitians may provide medical nutrition therapy include -
- (a) musculoskeletal conditions such as arthritis, amputations, osteoporosis, osteopenia or orthopaedics;
 - (b) neurological conditions such as epilepsy, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease;
 - (c) behavioural health conditions such as eating disorder, alcohol dependency, chemical dependency, disordered eating, mental illness or addictions;
 - (d) critical illness or conditions such as trauma, burns, wound care, pressure ulcers, malnutrition or injury;
 - (e) oncology including care in the continuum of care;
 - (f) cardiovascular conditions such as cerebrovascular accident, transient ischaemic attack, coronary artery disease, heart failure, lipid metabolism or hypertension;
 - (g) renal conditions such as chronic kidney disease, decreased kidney function to kidney failure, dialysis or transplantation;
 - (h) gastrointestinal conditions including liver, cirrhosis, liver transplantation, pancreas, upper and lower gastrointestinal, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, peptic ulcer disease, celiac disease, Crohn's disease, short bowel syndrome or ulcerative colitis;
 - (i) diabetes including prediabetes, type 1 diabetes mellitus, type 2 diabetes or gestational;
 - (j) developmental disabilities such as intellectual, autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, spina bifida or inborn errors of metabolism;
 - (k) sports nutrition or sports performance;
 - (l) genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis, inborn errors of metabolism, phenylketonuria or Wilson's disease;
 - (m) food allergies or food insensitivity;
 - (n) anaemia such as nutritional deficiencies;
 - (o) weight management conditions such as bariatric, overweight or obesity;
 - (p) paediatrics including failure to thrive; or
 - (q) pulmonary conditions such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis or asthma.
- (5) In an assessment for medical nutritional therapy the dietitian must -
- (a) complete a physical assessment related to nutrition status or review the results of assessment completed by another health professional;

- (b) complete anthropometric measures which include height, weight and body composition;
- (c) consider and review established diagnoses and medical history;
- (d) consider and review weight history;
- (e) request nutrition related laboratory assessments including glucose, thyroid, albumin and creatinine solely for the purpose of dietary recommendations;
- (f) advise on the use of herbal or nutritional supplements;
- (g) advise on the use of insulin, in consultation with a medical practitioner;
- (h) complete a physical assessment focused on nutrition through an evaluation of body systems, muscle and subcutaneous fat wasting, appetite affect, skin conditions and the abilities to suck, swallow and breathe.
- (i) assess the gastrointestinal and bowel functions;
- (j) assess the intake of usual food, fluid and nutrients and compare the review to dietary reference intake standards;
- (k) assess food allergies and intolerances;
- (l) assess the activity level and energy needs;
- (m) assess functional and cognitive abilities;
- (n) assess the lifestyle and psychosocial issues and requirements related the intake of food, fluid and nutrient; and
- (o) assess a person's nutritional goals.

ANNEXURE A

REGISTRABLE ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

(Regulation 4)

Qualification	Abbreviation for registration
Honours Baccalaureus in Dietetics	Hons BSc (Dietetics)
Magister Scientiae in Dietetics	MSc (Dietetics)
Doctor Scientiae in Dietetics	DSc (Dietetics)
International Board Certified Lactation Consultant	IBCLC