

KWAZULU NATAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

GUIDELINE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PHARMACISTS

Information for pharmacists doing community service in KZN, Department of Health.

Accommodation

The situation in many of our hospitals is that there is insufficient accommodation for the personnel working at the hospital. There is also a difference between hospitals situated in the urban areas, smaller towns and those that are situated in rural areas.

- Where a hospital is situated in large urban area such as Durban or Pietermaritzburg, we would ordinarily expect the community service pharmacists to find their own accommodation. Very rarely will official accommodation be available to community service pharmacist.
- The same would pertain to hospitals that are in smaller towns, such Empangeni, Eshowe, Escourt, Vryheid, towns of that size. Again we should expect that accommodation should be available in the towns. If however the hospital is in a position to offer accommodation on site, either in a house, flat, or nurses home that would be a matter to be decided with the Medical Superintendent of that particular institution.
- Where hospitals are cited to away from urban development such in the rural areas, for example, Manguzi, Mseleni, Benedictine, accommodation needs to be provided on site. In many of these institutions Park-homes have been requested by pharmaceutical services, and have been installed on the property. These Park-homes are for the exclusive use of the community services pharmacist. In some situations the hospital may have housing accommodation or other suitable accommodation for community service pharmacists.

It should be noted that in terms of the standing regulations there is a fee payable for the use of official accommodation. In addition to that there has been a recent amendment whereby fringe benefits such as official accommodation, are included under the fringe benefit taxation. This would imply a higher tax deduction to offset the privilege of having official accommodation, at a reduced rate.

Standby Allowance

This allowance is payable to pharmacists who are requested to be on standby, in the event that the pharmacy or pharmacist is needed after normal working hours by the hospital. This should be a formal arrangement between the Medical Superintendent and the Pharmacist. There is a daily allowance of R20.80 currently payable for each day on

standby. One would need to claim the allowance through your personnel section at the institution, by indicating the days that you were on standby.

Callouts

In the event of the pharmacist being called out to the pharmacy, to obtain medicine or for any other reason, the time worked may be claimed as overtime payment. Because of the financial constraints in the service at the moment, an arrangement may be made between the Medical Superintendent and the Pharmacist to compensate the time worked with the time off, at a time that is mutually convenient. Alternatively, if the medical superintendent would allow, one can claim payment for the hours worked. There are two rates depending on whether they are “sociable” or what is referred to as “unsociable” hours, which have been worked. Once more the time should be documented and submitted to the personnel section at the institution.

After Hours Work

We have been repeatedly asked as to what the situation would be with regard to community service pharmacists being able to work after hours, for example, in a retail pharmacy or a private hospital pharmacy. It must be noted that the registration of a “Pharmacist - Community Service”, entitles the pharmacist to work only in institutions registered specifically for this purpose. These institutions have to be published annually in the government gazette. The nature of it is that only state or provincial hospitals and clinics are included in that list. This would imply that anybody working for any other organization is essentially working outside the mandate of his or her registration, which would therefore make it illegal. Where it is brought to our attention that a community service pharmacist is working either after hours or during vacation leave in retail pharmacies or other pharmacies for which they do not have permission, these cases would be reported to Pharmacy Council for disciplinary action.

Completion of Community Service

At the conclusion of their term of community service you will be required to register with the pharmacy council as a “Pharmacist - Independent Practice”. For many pharmacists this registration would need to take place on the 1st January, the year following their completion of community service. The Pharmacy Council is extremely busy at this time of year. In addition, the community service pharmacists are having to wait for their “confirmation certificate”, before they can actually be registered as a “Pharmacist - Independent Practice”. Following consultation with the S. A. Pharmacy Council they have requested that all available documentation, such as registration forms and registration fees, be forwarded to them as soon as possible. They will commence the registration process, and once the “confirmation certificate” is available, that should be forwarded to directly to the Pharmacy Council so that it is just a simple step to complete the registration process.

CONTACT DETAILS

HEAD OFFICE

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REGIONAL PHARMACISTS: Names and Phone numbers

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B.	Indlovu/Pietermaritzburg	Mr. Mngadi	033-3426675 x 111
C.	Uthukela/Ladysmith	Mr. Groenewald	036-6312202
D.	Zululand/Ulundi	Mr. Nel	034-9813303
E & H.	Uthungulu/Jozini – Empangeni	Mr. Mntambo	035-7870162
F.	Ilembe/Durban	Miss Lazarus	031-3374392
G.	Umzinyathi/Newcastle	Mrs Smit	034-3151093