

SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

There has been confusion over the years regarding the scope of practice for medical Technicians, according to Medical Technician Qualifications, a Medical Technician needs to work under supervision.

SANAS assessors and accredited facilities have different interpretation of what 'working under supervision' means, as a result SANAS consulted the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) to seek clarity on this matter. The following points were highlighted by HPCSA to clarify the scope of practice for a medical technician:

- a) With regard to Medical Technicians working as Laboratory Supervisors: the Board advises that it is not acceptable for a Technician to "supervise" a Training Laboratory. A Medical Technologist can supervise intern trainee medical technicians in preparation for the Board Examinations: i.e. A Medical Technologist may be appointed as the Training Officer. However, a Medical Technician can supervise/manage the Administration components of the Laboratory including the duty rosters etc. but not the Technical Component of the Laboratory.
- b) The Technician Supervisor may sign off case sheets containing laboratory data (raw data) provided a Medical Technologist signs all reports immediately after verification. This system must allow sufficient measures to minimize possible errors.
- c) Technicians may enter test results on the IT system provided the verification of the results is done by a Technologist. Medical Technicians must not verify/authorize results.

- d) If a Technologist works in a laboratory supervised by a Technician, it is acceptable for a Technologist to report to a Technician on administrative issues only but not on SOP related tasks/interpretation of results or any Technical related issues.
- e) Student Technicians are required to indicate a category of choice at the time of registration. This requirement was not the case for students who registered before the Board approved the new form 53. The previous form did not require student technicians to indicate their chosen category and this led to instances where some students Technicians were registered without a category. The HPCSA Board has undertaken to correct this error.
- f) The scope of practice of a Technician is determined by the education and training outcomes which the Technician was exposed to.

All medical laboratories need to comply by these guidelines, correspondence received from Mr E Chanza, Professional Board Manager at the HPCSA.

SANAS offices will be closed from
24 December 2014 and open on
05 January 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

SANAS website: www.sanas.co.za | **Main Switchboard No:** +27 (0) 12 394-3760 | **General Fax No:** +27 (0) 12 394-0526 |
Physical Addresses: the dti Campus, Block G, Ground Floor | 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria | **SANAS Knowledge
Transfer Centre:** 121 Muckleneuck Street Nieuw Muckleneuk | Pretoria | 0002 | Private Bag X23 | Sunnyside | Pretoria | 0132

