Continuing Professional Development

The South African Pharmacy Council is pleased to announce to the profession that the completion of the first phase (pilot phase) of introducing mandatory recording of continuing professional development (CPD) activities online by pharmacists has successfully come to an end.

During this phase, which commenced on 4 November 2009, pharmacists were requested to record their CPD activities online through an online recording system linked to the Council’s website in South Africa. This was made possible through an agreement between the SAPC and CoAcS, a company based in the United Kingdom.

Pre- and post-pilot surveys were conducted on pharmacists prior and post recording of CPD activities online by using an adapted survey questionnaire (5-State CPD pilot USA 2006-7). Participating pharmacists recorded their learning activities between the pre- and post-pilot surveys.

The second phase was initiated in 2010, which involved the development of a South African unique web based recording system set to become operational in 2011. Challenges identified in the first phase are being addressed in the second phase. Pharmacists who have not yet used the system are encouraged to log on and record their CPD activities to familiarise themselves with the online recording of activities.

Council thanks all members of the profession who participated in the CPD pilot project and provided inputs on the CPD web based system.

The South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) is an independent statutory body created as a result of the recognition of the pharmacy profession by the legislature in South Africa, as a specific occupational group. The SAPC is established in terms of the Pharmacy Act, 1974 (Act 53 of 1974) as amended. The council is vested with statutory powers of peer review and is responsible for funding itself. The mission of the SAPC is to ensure the provision of quality pharmaceutical services in South Africa by developing, enhancing and upholding –

- Universally acceptable standards
- Professional ethics and conduct
- Ongoing competence
- Pharmaceutical care

SAPC is a statutory council and is thus an autonomous body, which receives no grants or subsidies from Government or any other source. SAPC is funded wholly by the profession who registers with the SAPC, namely:

1) Pharmacy students
2) Pharmacist interns
3) Pharmacists performing Community Service
4) Pharmacists
5) Specialist pharmacists
6) Pharmacist’s assistants
7) Pharmacy owners
8) Responsible pharmacists
9) Providers and assessors
Register with SAPC in 3 easy steps

1. Complete the prescribed application form. The application forms can be obtained from the Office of the Registrar by:
   - calling the Customer Care line on 0861 7272 00; or
   - telefax, using the following number: (012) 321-1479/92; or
   - requesting the appropriate forms in writing from: The Registrar, Private Bag 40040, Arcadia, 0007; or
   - downloading the appropriate forms from the Council’s website at www.sapc.za.org.

2. Complete all the sections of the form(s) accurately. Attach the supporting documentation as listed on the prescribed form. Please note only original certificates and notarised copies are acceptable and not facsimile copies.

3. Submit the duly completed application form(s) with supporting documentation, including the registration fee(s) as indicated on the application form(s), to the Office of the Registrar in good time.

Once registered with SAPC you will receive:

- a registration certificate issued by Council as proof of registration; and
- a practising card that is renewed annually on payment of the applicable annual fee.

The registration fee for a particular category of registration is payable only once, i.e. when registering for the first time in a particular category. Registration fees vary according to the category of registration.

To retain your SAPC registration, remember to pay the annual fee as prescribed.

What do the registration and annual fees cover?

The fees received by SAPC from registered pharmacy professionals are used to cover the costs of:

- Running the SAPC; and
- Administering the Pharmacy Profession in terms of registration, maintaining standards of education and training as well as maintaining fair standards of professional practice.

Recording of Pharmacies

Any person who is a holder of a licence issued in terms of the Regulations relating to the ownership and licensing of pharmacies shall, within 30 days from the date of issue by the Director General of the Department of Health but prior to any pharmaceutical services being provided, record such pharmacy in the registers of Council.

In terms of the Act, the following categories of pharmacies are recorded with Council, viz:

1) Manufacturing Pharmacy
2) Wholesale Pharmacy
3) Community Pharmacy
4) Institutional Pharmacy (Private and Public)
5) Consultant Pharmacy

Control of Professional Conduct

SAPC is entrusted with establishing, developing, maintaining and exercising control over universally acceptable standards of professional conduct of persons registered with it and controlling such persons by investigating complaints or accusations relating to their conduct.

The regulations relating to professional conduct inquiries are applied in accordance with legal principles, following upon allegations of unprofessional conduct by registered persons being brought to the SAPC’s attention.

The disciplinary process followed incorporates the principles of peer review and public accountability, as well as making provision for the requirements of the Constitution. Apart from the freedom of a member of the public to lodge a complaint with the SAPC, the public has access to avenues of civil litigation. There is furthermore a legal obligation on the courts to inform the SAPC of proceedings in which registered persons are found guilty.