

GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 40 OF 1988

The Medical and Allied Professions Act
(Laws, Volume XI, Cap. 544)

The Medical and Allied Professions (Health Assistants)
(Training) Rules, 1988

IN EXERCISE of the powers contained in section *thirty-three* of the Medical and Allied Professions Act, the following Rules are hereby made by the Medical Council of Zambia with the approval of the Minister.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Medical and Allied Professions (Health Assistants) (Training) Rules, 1988. Title

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires— Inter-pretation
 - “ Council ” means the Medical Council of Zambia;
 - “ examination ” means an examination prepared and supervised by the Council;
 - “ examiner ” means an examiner appointed by the Council to conduct an examination under these Rules;
 - “ student ” means a person undergoing training under the provisions of these Rules;
 - “ training period ” means the period prescribed for training under these Rules.

3. (1) For the purpose of enabling a person to become qualified to carry out the functions of a Health Assistant, the Council may grant a certificate in Environmental Health and Hygiene to any person, who has qualified under these Rules for the grant thereof. Certificate in Environmental Health and Hygiene

- (2) A certificate in Environmental Health and Hygiene shall be in the form set out in the First Schedule.

4. (1) The training of Health Assistants shall be conducted at Chainama College of Health Sciences, and at any other institution that the Council may recognise as a training institution for Health Assistants. Training institutions

*Copies of this Statutory Instrument can be obtained from the Government Printer,
P.O. Box 30136, Lusaka. Price 40n each.*

(2) The Council may recognise any institution as a training institution for Health Assistants if it is satisfied that—

- (a) there is adequate space, equipment and accommodation for teaching and training;
- (b) where the institution is residential, there is adequate residential and hostel accommodation and facilities;
- (c) there are suitably qualified supervisory and teaching staff with adequate clinical experience and theoretical knowledge of environmental health and hygiene;
- (d) where in the opinion of the Council it is practicable, there is an Education Committee.

Admission
to training
institution

5. (1) Subject to sub-rule (2), a person shall be eligible for admission for training as a Health Assistant if he—

- (a) possesses a full Junior Secondary School Certificate with credits in English language, Mathematics and General Science or Health Science;
- (b) has attained the age of at least seventeen years on the last day of the month in which the course commences;
- (c) is of good health and character.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-rule (1), the Council may allow a person to enter training at any stage of the course if the Council is satisfied that that person has sufficient previous training or experience to merit his exemption from the requirements of sub-rule (1).

Period of
training

6. (1) Subject to sub-rule (2) of rule 5, the period of training for Health Assistants shall be three years inclusive of vacation leave not exceeding eight weeks during each year of the course of training.

(2) Except for periods of vacation leave specified in sub-rule (1) or sick leave or any period recognised by the Council under sub-rule (3), the training of a student shall be continuous throughout the whole period of the course of training and, on any interruption of it, no recognition shall be accorded to the student in respect of any period of the course of training undergone prior to the interruption.

(3) Where the course of training of a student is interrupted for a period not exceeding two years and the Council considers that the reasons for the interruption are reasonable, having regard to all circumstances of the case, it may recognise the whole or part of the period of training undergone by the student prior to the interruption as counting towards the period of training prescribed under sub-rule (1).

7. (1) During the course of training, a student shall receive theoretical and practical instruction in every subject prescribed for the class in which he is a student by or under these Rules.

Instruction
of students

(2) Without derogation from the generality of the provisions of sub-rule (1), a student shall be instructed according to the syllabus from time to time approved by the Council, and the curriculum set out in the Second Schedule.

(3) Every lecture given to a student on a subject prescribed by these Rules for an examination shall be delivered by the teaching staff of the training institution at which the student is undergoing his training.

(4) The teaching staff of a training institution shall be appointed by the body responsible for administration of that institution, which shall inform the Council of any appointments so made.

(5) The instruction of every student shall, except where the Council may otherwise for good reason declare in writing, be generally supervised by a fully registered Health Inspector or registered Health Assistant or any other person that the Council may approve.

8. (1) Every student shall at the commencement of his training be furnished with a practical work record book, in a form approved by the Council, in which the teaching of techniques specified in the appropriate syllabus approved under sub-rule (2) of rule 7 shall be recorded in the manner prescribed in the practical work record book by the person in charge of that part of the training.

Practical
work
record book

(2) The practical work record book shall be produced to the examiner whenever the student undergoes an examination under these Rules.

9. Health Assistants examinations specified in the Third Schedule shall be held from time to time as directed by the Council.

Institution
of
examination

10. A student shall be eligible to be entered for an examination to be held under these Rules—

Entry to
examination

(a) if he has fulfilled the requirements set out in the Third Schedule, or has been exempted from them by the Council;

(b) if he has completed an entry form as set out in Form 1 in the Fourth Schedule accompanied by the appropriate examination fee determined by Council and approved by the Minister of Health from time to time; and

(c) if the examination is a final examination, he has obtained a certificate of eligibility set out in the Fourth Schedule from the Head of Department, to the effect that his conduct during his training period has been satisfactory.

Tests comprising examination

11. (1) The examination shall consist of such written, oral and practical examinations as are prescribed in the Third Schedule.

(2) A practical and oral examination shall be supervised by one or more examiners.

(3) Unless the Council for good reason in any particular case decides otherwise, no student may sit for the same examination more than three times.

Percentage of marks required

12. (1) To satisfy the examiners in the examination, it shall be necessary for a candidate to obtain fifty per centum in each of the written papers and in the practical and oral examinations.

(2) No candidate shall be declared as having passed a final examination unless on the same occasion he has satisfied the examiners in all the parts of the examinations.

Publication of examination results

13. (1) The list of successful candidates in an examination held under these Rules shall be published in alphabetical order, classified into three divisions, to be graded as "Distinction", "Credit" and "Pass".

(2) To enter Distinction division in the final examination, a candidate must obtain seventy-five per centum or over; for Credit division sixty-five to seventy-four per centum and for Pass division fifty to sixty-four per centum.

Transitional provision

14. Where any person had commenced his period of training prior to the coming into force of these Rules and at that date has satisfactorily completed a portion of his training, that portion shall, unless the Council for good reason otherwise decides, be deemed to be training under these Rules, and that person shall be deemed to be a student under these Rules.

FIRST SCHEDULE (Rule 3 (2))

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that.....has fulfilled examination requirements and is awarded a Certificate in Environmental Health and Hygiene.

..... Date

..... Chairman, Examination Committee

..... Registrar

SECOND SCHEDULE
(Rule 7 (2))

CURRICULUM

The training of Health Assistants shall comprise both theoretical and practical instructions in Environmental Health and Hygiene in the following courses:

Anatomy and Physiology, Causes of Diseases, Applied Mathematics, First Aid, Water Supply, Housing and Health, Health Services in Zambia, Introduction to Psychology, Sociology (Community Health), Refuse Storage, Collection and Disposal, Rodent Control, Health Education, Applied Physics and Chemistry, Communicable Diseases, Nutrition, Health Education and Primary Health Care, Sanitation, Inspection and Reports, Offensive Trades, Disinfection, Office Organisation and Administration, Vector Control, Building Science and Building Construction, Rodent Infestation and Control, Immunology, Immunisation, Village Planning and Housing, Appropriate Technology (Intermediate Technology), Food Hygiene and Food Hygiene of Food Premises, Health and Health Statistics, Occupational Health and Safety, Some aspects of Maternal and Child Health Services, Parasitology and Microbiology, Disposal of the Dead, Malariology and Malaria Control, Poultry Inspection, Meat Inspection, Fish Inspection and Mental Health.

THIRD SCHEDULE
(Rule 9)

EXAMINATIONS

Introductory Course—A student shall be eligible to sit for an Introductory Course Examination which shall be conducted by the staff of the Training Institution if by the date fixed for the Introductory Course Examination, he shall have satisfactorily completed not less than twelve weeks of his training period. The examination shall be conducted in the following courses:

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Causes of Diseases
3. Applied Mathematics
4. First Aid
5. Water Supply
6. Sanitation
7. Vector Control
8. Housing and Health
9. Health Services in Zambia
10. Nutrition
11. Introduction to Psychology
12. Sociology (Community Health)
13. Parasitology
14. Health Education
15. Personal Health and Hygiene
16. Applied Physics and Chemistry

Internal Assessment—A student shall be eligible to sit for the Internal Assessment which shall be conducted by the staff of the Training Institution if he has passed the Introductory Course Examination if by the date fixed for the Internal Assessment he shall have completed not less than twelve months

of his training period. The examination shall be conducted in the following courses—

1. *Environmental Health Studies*

- (a) Building Science
- (b) Sanitation
- (c) Water Supply
- (d) Occupation Health
- (e) Appropriate Technology

2. *Community Health*

- (a) First Aid
- (b) Immunology
- (c) Some aspects of MHC
- (d) Parasitology

3. *Food Hygiene and Nutrition*

- (a) Food hygiene and hygiene of food premises
- (b) Nutrition
- (c) Meat Inspection

4. *Control of Communicable Diseases*

- (a) Communicable Diseases
- (b) Disinfection
- (c) Vector Control
- (d) Malariology

Intermediate Examination—A student shall be eligible to be entered for the Intermediate Examination if he has passed the Internal Assessment and by the date fixed for the commencement of the Intermediate Examination he shall have completed not less than twenty-four months of his training period. The Intermediate Examination shall consist of written, oral and practicals. Written papers to carry one hundred marks each. Orals and practicals to carry one hundred marks. The examinations shall be conducted in the following Courses:

PAPER I—*Public Health Inspection and Administration*

- (a) Inspection and Reports
- (b) Office Administration

PAPER II—*Food Hygiene and Nutrition*

- (a) Food and hygiene and hygiene of food premises
- (b) Nutrition
- (c) Meat Inspection

PAPER III—*Environmental Health Control*

- (a) Refuse storage, collection and disposal
- (b) Rodent Control
- (c) Disposal of the Dead
- (d) Offensive Trade

PAPER IV—*Environmental Health Studies*

- (a) Building Construction
- (b) Sanitation
- (c) Water Supply
- (d) Village Planning and Housing

PAPER V—Control of Communicable Diseases

- (a) Communicable Diseases
- (b) Vector Control
- (c) Mental Health
- (d) Health Education

PAPER VI—Orals and Practicals

Final Examination—A student shall be eligible to be entered for the Final Examination if he has passed the Intermediate Examination and by the date fixed for the commencement of the Final Examination he will have completed not less than three years of his training period and he will have undergone the practical instruction in rural health service necessary for the completion of his Health Assistant Work Record. The Final Examination shall take the form of written papers, practical and oral examination in which the Examiners shall assess the student in respect of his ability to practice as a Registered Health Assistant in the following courses:

PAPER I—Public Health Inspection and Administration

- (a) Public Health Inspections and Reports
- (b) Office Administration

PAPER II—Food Hygiene and Nutrition

- (a) Food Hygiene and Hygiene of Food Premises
- (b) Nutrition
- (c) Meat Inspection

PAPER III—Environmental Health Control

- (a) Refuse storage, collection and disposal
- (b) Rodent Control
- (c) Disposal of the Dead
- (d) Offensive Trade

PAPER IV—Environmental Health Studies

- (a) Building Construction
- (b) Sanitation
- (c) Water Supply
- (d) Housing

PAPER V—Control of Communicable Diseases

- (a) Communicable Diseases
- (b) Vector Control
- (c) Epidemiology and Health Statistics
- (d) Health Education and Primary Health Care

PAPER VI—Orals and Practicals

FOURTH SCHEDULE
(Rule 10 (b) and (c))

FORM 1

EXAMINATION ENTRY FORM

..... 19....
Candidate for examination are asked to enter all details requested below and return the form immediately to the Medical Council of Zambia, P.O. Box 32554, Lusaka, together with the examination fee.

Surname (IN BLOCK LETTERS).....

Other names

Age..... day..... month..... year.....

Place of Birth

Permanent address.....

.....

Training School.....

Class

Date of commencement of training.....

To the best of my knowledge this is a true statement.

FeeK.....Cheque/Money Order or Postal Order.

Date.....

Signature of Candidate

FORM 2

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY TO SIT EXAMINATION

Name of Applicant.....

Age of Applicant.....

I hereby certify that the applicant has fulfilled the conditions of entry to the examination as mentioned in rule 10 of the Medical and Allied Professions (Health Assistants) (Training) Rules, 1988, for..... (state class) and he is eligible to be entered for the..... Examination.

Date.....

Supervisor of Training Institution

Made by the Medical Council of Zambia in Lusaka this.....day of

....., 1988.

Medical Council of Zambia

Approved by the Minister of Health at Lusaka this 10th day of February, 1988.

10th February, 1988

[MH.101/5/1]

R. C. SAKUHUKA,
Minister of Health