



# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

## OF THE

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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## Government Notice

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

No. 130

2022

#### REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION OF OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANTS, ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, MAINTAINING OF REGISTERS AND RESTORATION OF A NAME TO A REGISTER AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANTS: MEDICAL AND DENTAL ACT, 2004

Under section 59(1) of the Medical and Dental Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), and on the recommendation of the Medical and Dental Council of Namibia, I have made the regulations set out in the Schedule.

**DR K. SHANGULA**  
**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Windhoek, 11 April 2022

## SCHEDULE

1. Definitions
2. Minimum qualifications for registration as ophthalmic assistant
3. Application for registration as ophthalmic assistant
4. Registrable additional qualifications
5. Register of ophthalmic assistant
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7. Language of forms and documents
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### 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 of similar course and comprising of similar subjects as set out in these regulations;

“ophthalmic assistant” means a person registered under section 17 of the Act; and

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

### Minimum qualifications for registration as ophthalmic assistant

2. (1) Subject to other requirements in the Act, the Council may register a person as ophthalmic assistant, if the person holds any of the following qualifications -

- (a) Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmology;
- (b) Bachelor of Science in Technical Ophthalmology;
- (c) Diploma in Clinical Ophthalmology; or
- (d) an equivalent qualification,

obtained from an educational institution as defined in the Act after the person successfully completed full-time study for a period not less than three years.

(2) The curriculum of study of the qualification completed in sub regulation (1) must include the following subjects -

- (a) general ophthalmology;
- (b) principles and procedures of eye patient care;
- (c) community eye health;
- (d) anatomy and physiology of the eye;
- (e) basic pathology and microbiology;

- (f) genetics;
- (g) medical parasitology;
- (h) clinical biochemistry;
- (i) paediatric ophthalmology;
- (j) medical biology;
- (k) ocular pharmaco-therapeutics;
- (l) optics and refraction;
- (m) sexual and reproductive health;
- (n) ophthalmic surgery;
- (o) internal medicine;
- (p) epidemiology and biostatistics;
- (q) information, education and communication;
- (r) health research and basic computer skills;
- (s) research methodology; and
- (t) healthcare management.

### **Application for registration as ophthalmic assistant**

**3.** (1) A person may apply for registration as an ophthalmic assistant in terms of section 19 of the Act and that application must be -

- (a) submitted to the Registrar, in the form determined by Council; and
- (b) accompanied by -
  - (i) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant;
  - (ii) 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, 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 an ophthalmic assistant at the commencement of these regulations is considered to be registered as an ophthalmic assistant under these regulations.

**Registrable additional qualifications**

4. (1) The Council may recognise, for the purpose of registration of additional qualifications, subjects or courses obtained in and outside Namibia, if -

- (a) the educational institution at which that person obtained that additional qualification complies with the Act;
- (b) the registration authority responsible for the registration of a person to practice as an ophthalmic assistant in the country in which that person obtained the qualification, recognises that additional qualification for registration; and
- (c) that additional qualification obtained in or outside Namibia, complies with the other requirements determined by the Council.

(2) An additional qualification not specified in the Annexure may be entered against the name of the applicant, in the register, if the requirements of section 31(5) of the Act have been complied with to the satisfaction of Council.

**Register of ophthalmic assistants**

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

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

**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 subregulation (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.

**Scope of practice of ophthalmic assistant**

8. (1) The following acts are regarded as acts falling within the scope of practice of an ophthalmic assistant -

- (a) providing eye health promotion and education as well as the applications of prescribed preventive measures against eye diseases and conditions;

- (b) conducting clinical consultations with patients or clients and perform comprehensive ocular examinations and other technical investigations using appropriate clinical protocols, procedures and diagnostic equipment and instruments;
  - (c) performing diagnostic investigations or testing of common eye diseases or conditions and prescribing appropriate medical or surgical treatments and referring of the complicated cases to the ophthalmologist;
  - (d) performing extra ocular surgeries such as -
    - (i) corneal scrubbing; and
    - (ii) removal of superficial foreign bodies;
  - (e) performing trials and fitting of ocular prosthesis;
  - (f) providing pre-operative and post-operative clinical case management and care, both at hospital to out-patients, in-patients and on mobile outreach;
  - (g) performing special ophthalmic therapeutic procedures such as subconjunctival, subtenon, subtarsal and peribulbar or retrobulbar injection techniques;
  - (h) performing technical handling, care and clinical manipulation of various diagnostic, therapeutic, biometric and surgical equipment and other related medical or surgical apparatus, including -
    - (i) visual acuity testing techniques;
    - (ii) slit-lamp bio-microscopic techniques;
    - (iii) direct and indirect funduscopy techniques;
    - (iv) visual field examination techniques;
    - (v) ocular biometry and ultrasonography;
    - (vi) optical coherent tomography;
    - (vii) ocular tonometry;
  - (i) providing first aid ocular emergency cares and the referrals of complicated emergency cases to the ophthalmologist; and
  - (j) conducting operational and epidemiological research.
- (2) The following acts pertaining to the scope of practice of an ophthalmic assistant must be carried out under the direct supervision of a registered ophthalmologist -
- (a) performing extra ocular surgeries such as -
    - (i) eye lid and adnexa laceration repairs;
    - (ii) incision and drainage of hordeolum and chalazion; or
    - (iii) evisceration;

- (b) excision of tumors and growths including pterygium; and
- (c) administering local anesthesia, both in injectable and topical eye drops forms, during ophthalmic surgical procedures, clinical investigations, and other therapeutic procedures.

#### **ANNEXURE**

##### **Additional qualifications (Regulation 4)**

- (a) Certificate or Diploma in Community Eye Health;
  - (b) MSc in Community Eye Health; or
  - (c) Master of Public Health Ophthalmology
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