

# Continuing Professional Development for Dietitians



Vereniging vir Dieetkunde in Suid-Afrika  
Association for Dietetics in South Africa

Official Accreditor of CPD activities for Dietitians



Under the auspices of the  
Professional Board for  
Dietetics

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30 January 2004

Dear Colleague

## **CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: REVISED GUIDELINES AND THE WAY FORWARD**

Attached please find the revised CPD Guidelines 2004 as well as the form CPD3-DT for 2004.

The CPD system for dietitians, as implemented by our Board, has been reasonably successful and you will receive your CPD update for 2003 at the latest in April with the CPD administration invoice for the 2004 cycle.

Unfortunately, some difficulties in the CPD system as a whole have been experienced at Council level and more specific for the medical and dental practitioners. In March 2003 a consultant was contracted to evaluate and redress the system. The full report of the consultant was submitted in July 2003. The solutions proposed in the new system are the following:

- ? Providers will submit their activities to the accreditors for accreditation
- ? Providers will be obliged to provide Certificates of Attendance to all attending practitioners at all activities
- ? Providers have to submit attendance data with points to Accreditors within a month of the activity
- ? The Accreditors will electronically submit these points to the HPCSA after verification for correctness
- ? The old Period Based System (PBS) will be replaced by a Continuing Points System (CPS)
- ? All points accrued will be to the credit of the practitioner for two (2) years from date of the activity attended and will then lapse
- ? Computer checks will ensure that all attendance data is verified as correct
- ? Practitioners will be able to check the status of their CPD points at any time electronically
- ? The HPCSA website will become more functional and user-friendly.

All Professional Boards will be using the same CPD system, using external accreditors. The new system will run very much inline with the present CPD system for dietitians. The main difference is that compliance will no longer be based on a specific point of time (midnight on 31 December), but on a continuing basis. All points accumulated will remain active for a period of two years from date of attendance, for instance if 12 points were accrued for an activity which was attended on 10 February 2003 the 12 points will be to your credit until 9 February 2005. There will thus be no more carry over of points to the next cycle as the points accumulated will be valid only for 2 years from date of accrual. Compliance with CPD requirements will be determined by the maintaining of a continuing CPD level. The new system starts on 1 January 2004 although the electronic system will only be operational later. **The status quo is, however, applicable to the dietitians.**

**As soon as the final development phase is reached, full details of the functioning of the new system will be provided to all relevant role players and training will be presented. The status quo with regard to CPD for dietitians will remain until the specific date announced by the HPCSA.**

A similar letter on this matter was sent out by the HPCSA to all health professionals, including dietitians.

Please study the **CPD Guidelines 2004** and make sure that you complete the **Form CPD3-DT** correctly with all the required documentation attached when you apply for CPD points.

The CPD Committee wishes to thank you all for your continuous loyal support of CPD for dietitians.

Yours faithfully

**Gerda Gericke RD(SA)**  
Outgoing Chairperson of the CPD Committee