

# SOUTH AFRICAN NURSING COUNCIL SURVEY ON DISTINGUISHING DEVICES

STAKEHOLDER FORUM : 23 OCTOBER 2019

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**South African Nursing Council**  
*Regulating nursing, advocating for the public*

# Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
2. Purpose
3. Background
4. Process
5. Conclusion



# 1. Introduction

- The promulgation and subsequent proclamation of various sections of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Nursing Act no. 33 of 2005) brought about new provisions, necessitating a series of activities to implement these provisions
  - One such provision was the creation of new categories of nurse practitioners in terms of section 31 of the Nursing Act as follows:
    - ❖ Professional Nurse;
    - ❖ Midwife;
    - ❖ Staff Nurses now gazetted as **General Nurse**;
    - ❖ Auxiliary Nurse
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# 1. Introduction continued....

- The SANC is obliged to implement the above provisions and one of the activities necessary was the review of the relevance of distinguishing devices in the context of new nursing categories.
- The results from the activity will inform the necessary amendment of the current or development of new Regulations on distinguishing devices.



## 2. Purpose

- The purpose of the presentation is to update stakeholders on the progress of the survey undertaken by the SANC to determine the relevance of distinguishing devices in the context of new nursing categories.
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### 3. Background

- In 2015, the previous Council conducted a survey to establish if nurses still desired to continue with the distinguishing devices and if the current distinguishing devices were still the preferred by nurse practitioners.
  - A Survey Monkey (online software) questionnaire link was sent to 220 000 nurses; only 50% responded.
  - The analysis concluded that:
    - ❖ 78% of nurses were in favour of having the current epaulettes and preferred to retain the same colours and creation of new colours for the new categories such as Staff Nurse.
    - ❖ 22% wanted to have identification cards and no epaulettes.
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### 3. Background cont....

- The 15<sup>th</sup> Council's term of office came to an end before the matter could be concluded.
  - The current Laws, Practice and Standards Committee of Council was concerned about the limited distribution of the questionnaire and the low response which, if utilised to decide a position on the matter, may not be a true reflection of the nurses' preference.
  - A concern was also raised about the distinguishing device for the current Enrolled Nursing Auxiliary and the fact there were no distinguishing bars for some of the of the post-basic fields of study.
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## 4. Process

- In June 2019, the Council resolved that communication be sent to stakeholders to ensure widespread consultation to solicit final input on this matter
  - A template was developed to populate responses with space for additional comments provided
  - The Committee resolved to propose as below: **special focus on 4.5 and 4.6 as indicated below:**
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CATEGORY	DISTINGUISHING DEVICES
4.1 Professional Nurse	Maroon epaulettes with Council badge + green bar for Midwifery
4.2 General Nurse	Maroon epaulette with Council badge
4.3 Registered Midwife (remains unchanged)	Green bar with Council badge
4.4 Enrolled Nurse (remains unchanged)	White epaulette with Council badge
4.5 Auxiliary Nurse	Dark turquoise or salmon colour for the Auxiliary Nurses' distinguishing devices
4.6 Nurse Specialists and Midwife Specialists	<p>Maroon epaulette with Council badge + green bar.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>6.1 Same bar for all clinical specializations and</p> <p>6.2 same bar for non- clinical specializations, i.e. Nursing Education and Health/Nursing Service Management.</p>

## 5. Conclusion

- Responses have been received from nursing directorates (public and private), nursing formations and also from individual nurse practitioners.
  - Analysis of the survey is underway and the outcome will be presented to Council.
  - The outcome will inform an evidence-based amendment/review of *Regulations for Distinguishing Devices* for the various categories of nurses as per section 31 and 34 of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act no.33 of 2005).
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