

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

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Council on Higher Education (CHE) and South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) formalise collaboration to strengthen quality assurance in pharmacy education and training

Pretoria - The Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) have formally entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to strengthen cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the quality assurance, accreditation and promotion of pharmacy education and training in South Africa.

The MoA recognises the complementary statutory mandates of the CHE, as the Quality Council for higher education, and the SAPC, as the statutory professional body responsible for regulating pharmacy education, training and professional practice in terms of the Pharmacy Act, 53 of 1974. Through this agreement, the two councils commit to working together in a structured, coherent and coordinated manner to enhance the quality, relevance and responsiveness of pharmacy qualifications offered by higher education institutions.

The agreement seeks to reduce unnecessary duplication in quality assurance processes, provide greater clarity on roles and responsibilities, and ease the regulatory burden on higher education institutions offering pharmacy programmes, while ensuring that graduates are equipped with the appropriate knowledge, skills, competencies, values and ethical grounding required for professional practice.

Commenting on the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement, Dr Whitfield Green, Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Higher Education, said:

“This agreement represents an important step in strengthening collaboration between the CHE and statutory professional bodies in the interest of a coherent and effective higher education quality assurance system. By working closely with the South African Pharmacy Council, we aim to enhance alignment, reduce duplication and ensure that pharmacy qualifications meet both national academic standards and the needs of professional practice and society.”

Mr Vincent Tlala, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the South African Pharmacy Council, welcomed the agreement, noting its significance for the profession and the public:

“The Memorandum of Agreement affirms our shared commitment to safeguarding the quality and integrity of pharmacy education and training in South Africa. Through structured collaboration with the CHE, the SAPC will continue to ensure that pharmacy graduates are competent, ethical and well prepared to contribute meaningfully to the healthcare system and to the promotion of patient-centred pharmaceutical care.”

Key areas of collaboration under the MoA include:

- Alignment and cooperation in the accreditation and review of pharmacy programmes and qualifications;
- Joint participation in the development and review of qualification and professional standards through Communities of Practice;
- Collaboration on national and targeted quality reviews of pharmacy qualifications;
- Information sharing and coordinated responses to identified quality concerns in pharmacy education and training;
- Joint research, knowledge dissemination, conferences and dialogue platforms on quality assurance matters in pharmacy education; and
- The development of communication protocols and joint communiqués on matters of mutual and public interest.

The MoA further establishes mechanisms for collaboration, including the formation of a joint steering committee and agreed protocols to guide engagement, information sharing and conflict resolution. The agreement emphasises the shared responsibility of the CHE, SAPC and higher education institutions to produce competent, ethical and socially responsive pharmacy professionals who can serve the healthcare needs of the South African population.

This Memorandum of Agreement will be effective for a period of five (5) years and will be subject to regular review to ensure its continued relevance and impact.

Issued jointly by:

Council on Higher Education (CHE)

South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC)

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