

## **Continued Professional Development [CPD] for Veterinary Para-professionals will be regulated as from 1 April 2015**

Members of the veterinary nursing-, veterinary technology-, laboratory animal technology- and animal health technology professions are hereby alerted to the latest developments relating to the implementation of the CPD requirements of their respective professions.

The CPD requirements apply to any person who is registered or authorised by Council to render the services of a veterinary para-professional.

Council resolved to introduce CPD for veterinary para-professionals as from 1 April 2015. This decision was made having considered the lengthy period of development of the CPD process for veterinary para-professionals and the conclusion of a pilot project conducted [and extended] by the veterinary para-professions to ensure that CPD is feasible for the veterinary para-professions.

The decision taken by Council on 21 October 2014, after consultation, was to not implement the regulations as was initially and over a period of six years resolved, but to create a special dispensation for the veterinary para-professions, in that:

- During the first cycle commencing on 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018 ten (10) structured and ten (10) unstructured CPD points must be achieved. All veterinary para-professionals registered or authorised on 1 April 2015 will have to commence their first CPD cycle on this date;
- During the second cycle from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021 fifteen (15) structured and thirty (30) unstructured CPD points must be achieved; and
- Only from 1 April 2021 fifteen structured and thirty five (35) unstructured CPD points must be achieved for every consecutive three year CPD cycle thereafter.

### **Some of the advantages of CPD are-**

- The public and animals receive services within the latest scientific knowledge.
- Members can plan and expand their career opportunities based on improved knowledge and skills.
- Many employers value learning agility which adds value to the practice, services or place of employment and contributes to staff development.
- CPD achievements may be used in appraisals and will create a better focus on personal development and on the developments within the practice, organisation or veterinary services.
- Members will be compliant with the rules for their respective professions; in that services are rendered in terms of the latest scientific knowledge; and /or in terms of the highest standard of care.
- Members are exposed to valuable networks.
- Members have increased forums in which to share challenges and achievements.
- Members are supported by their various associations and the Council.
- CPD will bring the veterinary profession and the veterinary para-professions into closer contact, which will contribute to an improved overall understanding of the services available to each other and to all communities.
- Members will not only be lifelong learners but will have opportunities to share in the teaching.
- Employers may claim CPD costs back under the Skills Development Act.

Members will have to comply with the regulations. Compliance with CPD will become a requirement for maintenance of registration as is required for the veterinary profession in South Africa.

The veterinary profession already offers various activities which can be utilised by the veterinary para-professions. Furthermore, an innovative short message system already exists for those members who

cannot attend congresses and formal lectures on which the veterinary para-professions can build their own models.

Members of the veterinary para-professions are in addition hereby introduced to the SAVC's CPD Accreditation Committee namely, Dr Joseph van Heerden [chairperson] and Prof Rob Kirberger. Members and CPD providers are welcome to submit their CPD activities to the Committee for accreditation of CPD activities. Expertise in specific fields will be co-opted, if required. The administration will receive these applications and will ensure that the Committee deals with it expeditiously. Please contact Ms Lenora Erasmus at: [exams@savc.org.za](mailto:exams@savc.org.za) or Tel: [012] 345 6360 for details regarding the applications for CPD Accreditation.

Council will direct this communiqué to all known employers of veterinary para-professions to ensure that employers are aware thereof that veterinary para-professionals have to comply with CPD requirements as from 1 April 2015.