Media Statement

CAUTION ON UNREGISTERED FOREIGN EMERGENCY CARE PERSONNEL

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For immediate release

Pretoria – The Professional Board for Emergency Care of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) has a legislative mandate in terms of the Health Professions Act 1974 (Act no 56 of 1974) to ensure the registration of adequately educated, trained as well as appropriately qualified Emergency Care Personnel for the rendering of quality and safe healthcare services to the public of South Africa.

The Professional Board for Emergency Care has noted with concern that there are Emergency Care Services which permit foreign students to work on ambulances. In terms of Section 17 of the Health Professions Act, registration is a pre-requisite for practising any of the Health Professions registrable under this Act, therefore, it is not permissible for any unregistered person to practise on the South African public. Should any foreign student be involved with the treatment of any patient they must register with the HPCSA as a visiting student.

Should a person be in a capacity of an observer, the unregistered person must be required to sign an undertaking of confidentiality pertaining to any patient information they may become privy to.

The Professional Board appeals to the emergency services to ensure that they employ registered emergency care personnel and adhere to the Board regulations.

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About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) also known as Council is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974. The HPCSA is committed to protecting the
public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

The HPCSA is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects pertaining to education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

In order to safeguard the public and guiding the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

Issued by:

Priscilla Sekhonyan
Communications Manager
Health Professions Council of South Africa

Tel: 012 338 9362
Cell: 082 801 6685
Email: priscillas@hpcsa.co.za

For more information contact:
Ms Rosina Mafetsa
Acting Board Manager: Emergency Care
Health Professions Council of South Africa

Tel: 012 338 3922
Email: rosinam@hpcsa.co.za