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By SAPA



The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is using a new process to determine guideline tariffs for medical and dental services, it said on Thursday.

“The (Medical and Dental Professions) Board decided to terminate the process engaged in earlier this year, and to commence with a renewed and more comprehensive public participation process to determine the guideline tariffs,” the council said in a statement.

Guideline tariffs were announced in August, but publication was delayed due to practitioner concerns.

The board would instead “engage in a new and more comprehensive public participation process to gather inputs from interested persons and parties regarding the determination of the guideline tariffs”, it said.

A new notice would be published soon in the Government Gazette, it said.

In the new process, the board would seek input for all aspects of the methodology and process of determining the guideline tariffs.

It would also look at the appropriate basis (such as the National Health Reference Price List) for the guideline tariffs, how to counteract the effects of inflation, costs and any other relevant factors.

A longer period of public comment than required by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act has been provided to ensure maximum participation by stakeholders.

Previous representations would be taken into account in this new process, the HPCSA said. - Sapa