

23 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN GUIDELINES**

We find ourselves in unfamiliar, extraordinary and trying times. Following the president's announcement last night of a **national lockdown from midnight Thursday 26 March 2020 to midnight on Thursday 16 April 2020**, we would like to remind Orthotists and Prosthetists that we have an ethical responsibility toward our patients and other healthcare professionals. Our obligation during this unprecedented and constantly changing times is to, in accordance with our mandate, act in the best interest of the public. Our discipline includes the provision of essential as well as non-essential services. Consequently, the following guidelines should be observed:

- ❖ Non-essential and elective treatments and appointments should be rescheduled for a date after the lockdown
- ❖ Essential services should be continued. Although not exhaustive, essential services include trauma and post-surgical services. Please use your discretion in this regard
- ❖ Non-contact service provision (to the extent that it can be reasonably done) for example telephonic and digital engagement is encouraged
- ❖ Always keep your HPCSA registration card with you, especially when travelling. It can be downloaded from the HPCSA website at [www.hpcsa.co.za](http://www.hpcsa.co.za) provided you are paid-up and in good standing.

The SAOPA NEC remain committed to assist where they can and encourage you to do the same. As a fraternity, please support each other during these testing times. Act with compassion and care but be cautious and responsible. Don't forget to look after yourself too. We wish for you to remain safe and healthy during these testing time.

Best regards



Tanya le Roux  
Executive Officer



[www.saopa.co.za](http://www.saopa.co.za)

Administrated by Clinical  
Governance Services (Pty) Ltd

Address: Stanford Office Park, Building 10, 12  
Bauhinia Street, Highveld Park, Centurion, 0169

Phone: +27 (0)87 094 3100  
E-mail: [info@saopa.co.za](mailto:info@saopa.co.za)