

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' GROUP

The Steering Committee of the National General Practitioners Group has forwarded for publication the following revised copy of the revised Constitution of the Group as approved by Federal Council at its meeting in October 1954:

I.—Name.

The name of the Group shall be 'The National Group of General Practitioners of the Medical Association of South Africa'.

II.—Objects.

2. The objects for which the Group is established are:

- (a) To promote General Practice.
- (b) To define and establish relations amongst General Practitioners and all Groups of the Medical Association and between General Practitioners and hospitals, public and private institutions, government authorities, the medical profession generally and the public.
- (c) To promote the professional and legitimate interests of General Practitioners.

III.—Membership.

3. Any person who is a registered medical practitioner within the Union of South Africa and who is a member of the Medical Association of South Africa is eligible for membership by virtue of his membership of his branch or section, where such branch or section exists, and providing:

- (a) His professional practice is confined to General Practice.
- (b) The nature of his practice is such as to give him a special interest in the subject of General Practice.

4. Every member shall remain a member until his membership is terminated either by his resignation in writing addressed to the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer or by decision of the Executive Committee of the Group. His membership may be suspended if after one year he has not paid his due subscription, but he may be reinstated on payment of arrear subscriptions due. During the period of suspension he shall not retain his vote.

5. The activities of the Group shall be suspended if, at any time, its membership shall be less than 11 (eleven) members.

IV.—Control.

6. The general control and direction of the policy and affairs of the Group shall be vested in the National Committee of the Group and its Executive Committee.

7. The National Committee shall be elected by branches or sections, each branch having 1 (one) member for the first 50 (fifty) and thereafter 1 (one) member for every additional 100 (hundred) or the major portion thereof.

- (a) The office bearers and Executive shall be elected by the National Committee out of their members and shall consist of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, an Honorary Secretary/treasurer, and five members of the Executive.
 - (b) The Executive or any sub-committee of the National Committee may co-opt any member or members of the group for any special purpose, the co-opted member to be without voting powers.
 - (c) The National Committee shall meet at least twice a year.
 - (d) Provision shall be made for proxies with approval of the branches or section.
8. A list of office bearers, together with a complete list of

members of the Group shall be furnished annually to the Medical Secretary of the Association within 30 (thirty) days of the election of such office-bearers.

9. The Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Group shall keep records of all meetings of the Group and of the Executive Committee and shall conduct all correspondence in connection with the affairs of the Group. He shall receive all monies due to the Group and shall make all disbursements authorized by the Executive Committee.

V.—Meetings.

10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year at or about the time of the Annual General Meeting of the Medical Association. The quorum shall consist of 20 (twenty) members inclusive of proxies.

11. General Meetings of the Group may be held from time to time and shall be called by the Executive Committee on the written request of 40 (forty) members of the Group. Voting by proxy shall follow as nearly as is material the form prescribed in the By-Laws of the Association.

VI.—Action.

12. The Group may take such action as may be deemed necessary in all matters affecting the legitimate interests of its members; provided that the Association as a whole be not involved or pledged to any action and that any action contemplated by the Group be in conformity with the policy of the Association for the time being in force.

13. Should the Group refer a matter affecting the interest of its members to the Federal Council of the Association for action, it shall take no further independent action unless requested to do so by Federal Council.

VII.—Organization.

14. Shall consist of the National Group with branches which follow closely on the pattern established in the Medical Association of South Africa. The branches may divide themselves further into sections. Such branches may be allowed powers of independent action in local matters provided that such action is not in conflict with the General Policy and rules of the Group, and of the Association in general.

15. The method of election in each branch shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee of the branch or section that each branch shall elect. Such branch or section shall elect a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, and an Executive Committee consisting of six or more members annually at the Annual General Meeting of the branch or section, which shall be held three months prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Group.

16. Reports of local action taken shall be submitted within 14 (fourteen) days by the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the branch or section to the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Group.

17. That each branch or section may draw up their own By-Laws for the conduct of their local affairs including the method of election of delegates to the National Committee. Nothing in these By-Laws shall be in conflict with the Constitution of the National Group.

VIII.—*Subscriptions.*

18. An Annual Subscription of £1 0s. 0d. shall be payable by members of the Group to provide funds for the carrying out of the work of the Group.

19. It shall be competent for the amount of this subscription to be altered by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Group.

20. The subscriptions shall be collected by the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the National Group. All accounts shall be subject to audit and branches or sections may claim legitimate

expenses in the connection with the running of their branch, these not to exceed 50% of the paid up subscriptions of their members for that year.

IX.—*Annual Report.*

The Honorary Secretary/Treasurer shall submit an Annual Report and a Financial Statement at the Annual General Meeting of the Group. A copy of each shall thereafter be sent to the Medical Secretary of the Association within 30 (thirty) days of the meeting of the Federal Council of the Association.