

**PROVIDER CORE COMPETENCIES FOR IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH CARE OF THE NATION:
CONSENSUS STUDY**

INFORMATION SHEET July 2017

Good day,

My name is Ashley Govender. I am a researcher employed by the Academy of Science of South Africa. I would like to invite you to participate in a research study that is being conducted by the Academy.

The aim of this study is to determine the core competencies of various categories of health providers who are required to provide mental health care in South Africa. South Africa has a considerable burden of mental, neurological and substance use disorders, and insufficient skilled healthcare personnel to provide treatment, care, and rehabilitation for people suffering from these disorders. The new South African mental health policy therefore proposes a task-sharing approach to the provision of services, where less-qualified providers are trained to provide these services under the supervision of more qualified providers. In order for this approach to be successful, the core competencies of the different cadres of providers needs to be clearly defined. If these are accepted, this may require a change in the training provided through various academic institutions.

You are being invited to participate in this study because you are involved in training, provision of services or you are a service user. Your input will assist the Academy in developing relevant recommendations to policy makers, regulatory bodies and academic institutions would lead to improved services.

This is an anonymous survey which explores aspects related to provider core competencies in mental health care using a task-sharing approach. If you are willing to participate, please complete the electronic survey: the questionnaire is available through the following link:

If you are and Educator involved in Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders Training <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T979MDW>

If you are a Service Provider involved in Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5LQJRH>

If you are a Mental Health Care User of services for Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQRZD38>

Thank you for participating in this extremely important survey.

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