



PRESS RELEASE

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STATUTORY REGULATION OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS **(also known as PROFESSIONS ALLIED TO / SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE)**

The Minister for Health, Dr. John Cortes, will today announce a new law to regulate Allied Health Practitioners, which will be enacted in Gibraltar from 15th January 2015.

Allied Health Practitioners are health care professionals who belong to one of 23 professions (listed in the appendix to this Press Release) that used to be known by the old name of professions supplementary to medicine.

The new law will regulate the practitioners by laying down entry qualifications for them, establishing their rules of practice and protecting their titles.

The regulation of the professions supplementary to medicine has a long history. Although the law (Medical & Health Act 1997) established that one of the members of Gibraltar's regulatory body, the Medical Registration Board, should be from the professions supplementary to medicine, the actual regulation of the professions has come about only now.

The new law will make it mandatory for any practitioner in the 23 listed professions to register with the Medical Registration Board prior to engaging in any practice of his/her profession. Practice in Gibraltar without appropriate registration will be a legal offence.

The law will require that in order to register with the Gibraltar Board, all Allied Health Practitioners should already be registered with the respective UK Regulator (also listed in the appendix to this Press Release) and that such registration should be current and valid



at all times. He or she will also be required to comply with the UK Regulator's guidance on ethical practice, professional development, standards of work, etc.

For this to work well, the Medical Registration Board needs to work closely with the UK Regulators. The Board has been engaged in building these relationships for several months now, culminating in the agreement of Memoranda of Understanding with each UK Regulator.

These Memoranda are to be formally signed by the Chairman of Gibraltar Medical Registration Board Dr. Vijay Kumar and the Chief Executives (or representatives) of the respective UK Regulators, at the Launch Event, to be held at the Elliot Hotel on 14th January 2015 at 6:00 PM.

**APPENDIX : LIST OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
to be regulated by amendment to the Medical & Health Act 1997**

Regulated profession	Protected title	UK Regulator
Arts Therapist	Art Therapist Art Psychotherapist Drama Therapist Music Therapist	Health & Care Professions Council
Biomedical Scientist	Biomedical Scientist	Health & Care Professions Council
Chiropodist and podiatrist	Chiropodist Podiatrist	Health & Care Professions Council
Chiropractor	Chiropractor	General Chiropractic Council
Clinical Scientist	Clinical Scientist	Health & Care Professions Council
Dental Hygienist	Dental Hygienist	General Dental Council
Dental Technician	Dental Technician	General Dental Council
Dental Therapist	Dental Therapist	General Dental Council
Dietician	Dietician Dietitian	Health & Care Professions Council
Dispensing Optician	Dispensing Optician	General Optical Council
Hearing Aid Dispenser	Hearing Aid Dispenser	Health & Care Professions Council
Occupational Therapist	Occupational Therapist	Health & Care Professions Council
Operating Department Technician	Operating Department Technician	Health & Care Professions Council
Optometrist	Optometrist Ophthalmic Optician Optician	General Optical Council
Orthodontic Therapist	Orthodontic Therapist	General Dental Council
Orthoptist	Orthoptist	Health & Care Professions Council
Orthotist and Prosthetist	Prosthetist Orthotist	Health & Care Professions Council
Osteopath	Osteopath	General Osteopathic Council
Paramedic	Paramedic	Health & Care Professions Council



Physiotherapist	Physiotherapist Physical Therapist	Health & Care Professions Council
Practitioner Psychologist	Clinical Psychologist Counselling Psychologist Educational Psychologist Forensic psychologist Health Psychologist Occupational Psychologist	Health & Care Professions Council
Radiographer	Radiographer Diagnostic Radiographer Therapeutic Radiographer	Health & Care Professions Council
Speech and Language Therapist	Speech and Language Therapist Speech Therapist	Health & Care Professions Council