

Medical Director of Health Act

No. 41/2007

SECTION I

Objectives, appointment of Medical Director of Health and definitions

Art. 1

Directorate of Health

A Directorate of Health shall operate under the authority of the Minister of Health and Social Security with the objective of ensuring the quality of health service and promoting the health of the people of Iceland.

Art. 2

Appointment of Medical Director of Health

The Minister shall appoint a Medical Director of Health for a term of five years, having received the findings of the committee under art. 9 of the Health Service Act. He/she shall have a specialist medical qualification and extensive experience or education in the field of administration. The Medical Director of Health appoints the staff of the Directorate. A Deputy Medical Director of Health shall be employed by the Directorate of Health, for whom the same qualifications and work experience are required as for the Medical Director of Health.

Art. 3

Definitions

The following words shall have the following meanings in this Act:

1. *Health service*: All forms of primary healthcare, medical care, nursing, general and specialised hospital care, transport of patients, medical-aids service, and service from health personnel within and outside healthcare facilities, provided in order to promote health, to prevent, diagnose or treat illness, and to rehabilitate patients.
2. *Healthcare practitioner*: Person working in health services, licensed by the Minister of Health and Social Security to use to the professional title of a legally-recognised health profession.
3. *Healthcare facility*: An institution where health service is provided.
4. *Premises of self-employed healthcare practitioner*: Facilities of self-employed healthcare practitioners, where health services are provided with or without State contribution to costs.

SECTION II

Role of the Medical Director of Health

Art. 4

Role of the Medical Director of Health

The role of the Medical Director of Health is *inter alia* as follows:

- a. to provide advice on matters of health to the Minister and other authorities, healthcare practitioners and the public,
- b. to monitor health services,
- c. to monitor healthcare practitioners,
- d. to monitor prescriptions, observe use of medications in the country and promote reasonable use of them,
- e. to gather and process data on health and health services,
- f. to observe the health of the people of Iceland,
- g. to work for quality development within the health service,

- h. to deal with complaints from the public regarding health services,
- i. to promote consistency between training of healthcare practitioners and the standards of the health service at all times,
- j. to promote research in the field of health service,
- k. to perform other tasks assigned to him/her by law, by government instructions or by decision of the Minister.

Art. 5

Instructions, guidance and advice

The Medical Director of Health may give healthcare facilities and healthcare practitioners general professional instructions on work procedures, measures and responses of various nature, with which they must comply. Such instructions must be submitted to the Minister for confirmation, and made public.

The Medical Director of Health may issue professional guidance to healthcare practitioners and healthcare facilities, including guidance conducive to approaches and solutions to problems being in accord with the best knowledge at any time. The guidance of the Medical Director of Health shall be presented to healthcare practitioners, and be accessible to the public.

The Medical Director of Health may make known to the public advice and counsel on matters concerned with health and the health service.

Art. 6

Professional standards for operation of health services

The Minister shall, having received proposals from the Medical Director of Health and after consultation with the relevant health professions, make provision in regulations for the minimum professional standards to apply to operation of health services in individual fields. The regulations shall be based upon knowledge and circumstances at any time, and shall be regularly revised. The regulations shall specify *inter alia* minimum standards of manning, accommodation, facilities and equipment or operation of health service.

Those who intend to commence operation of a health service, including the State or a local government, shall notify the Medical Director of Health of the planned operation. The notification shall be accompanied by adequate information on the operation, such as the type of health service, personnel, equipment and premises. The Medical Director of Health can request further information, and carry out an assessment of the prospective operation, if he/she deems necessary. By the same token the Medical Director of Health shall be notified if major changes are made to manning, equipment, operations and services of operators. Should operation of a health service cease, this shall be notified to the Medical Director of Health.

The Medical Director of Health confirms whether the prospective operation of a health service meets professional standards and other conditions of health legislation. The same applies when the Minister renews contracts with healthcare facilities. Operations in the field of health services may not be commenced unless the Medical Director of Health has given confirmation. The Medical Director of Health may impose stricter requirements if deemed necessary due to the nature of the operations in question. Confirmation from the Medical Director of Health is also required for major changes under para. 1.

Should the Medical Director of Health refuse to grant confirmation under para. 2, the refusal may be appealed to the Minister. The same applies to a decision of the Medical Director of Health to impose stricter requirements under para. 2. However, in the case of a health service which the State intends to operate, the Minister always has the power to rule on whether legal requirements and professional standards are met.

The Medical Director of Health maintains a register of operating parties in health service, and he/she shall notify the Minister of all changes to the register. A fee may be charged for an assessment by the Medical Director of Health under para. 1 and for his/her confirmation that professional standards are met under para. 2, as further provided in Regulations by the Minister.

Art. 7

Monitoring of health service

The Medical Director of Health shall regularly monitor compliance of health services provided in Iceland with professional standards and the provisions of health legislation at any time. The Medical Director of Health has the right to demand from healthcare practitioners, healthcare facilities and others who provide health services information and data he/she deems necessary in order to perform his/her monitoring role, and they must comply with such a demand. The Medical Director of Health shall have ready access to healthcare facilities and the premises of self-employed healthcare practitioners for monitoring purposes under this Act.

Should the Medical Director of Health be of the view that a health service does not meet the professional standards under art. 6 or other requirements of health legislation, he/she shall instruct the operator of the service to make improvements. Should the operator not comply with such instructions, the Medical Director of Health must report on the matter to the Minister, and submit proposals on measures. The Minister may then decide to halt the operation, either temporarily pending rectification, or permanently.

The Minister may make further provision in regulations for the practice of monitoring by the Medical Director of Health.

Art. 8

Reports and health registers

The Medical Director of Health shall, in accord with regulations issued by the Minister, organise and maintain national registers on health, diseases, accidents, prescriptions, births, and the work and performance of the health service. The purpose of the registers is to gather information on health and the health service, to monitor the service, to ensure its quality and assess its success, and also to use the registers in planning for quality development in the health service and in scientific research. The Medical Director shall also, in consultation with the Ministry, process data from the health registers for use in planning, policy formation and other tasks of the Ministry, and publish health reports. The data in the Medical Director's registers shall not be

personally identifiable, but see para. 2, except with the consent of the person involved.

In the following registers organised by the Medical Director of Health, information on patients' names, identity numbers, and other personal identifying features may be recorded without the consent of the patient:

1. Register of births
2. Register of cardiovascular disease
3. Register of neurological diseases
4. Register of cancer patients
5. Register of accidents
6. Register of admissions to healthcare facilities
7. Healthcare centres' contact register
8. Self-employed specialist physicians' contact register

In the Medical Director's registers under para. 2, personal identifying features shall be coded. The Ministry shall make further provision in regulations, after receiving the recommendations of the Data Protection Authority, regarding the personal and health data which may be entered in the registers and their coding, and the circumstances in which they may be decoded.

The Medical Director of Health is responsible for the registers he/she organises.

Healthcare facilities, healthcare practitioners and others who provide health services shall provide the Medical Director of Health with the information he/she requires in order to maintain the health registers under paras. 1 and 2. The Medical Director of Health gives healthcare facilities, healthcare practitioners and others who provide health service instructions on minimum data recording for these purposes, and how registration of data and their submission to the Directorate is to be carried out. The Medical Director's instructions shall be submitted to the Minister for confirmation, and made public. Other bodies which are under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Social Security and gather data in the field of health, such as the Medicines Control Agency, the State Social Security Institute and the Public Health Institute, shall also provide the Medical Director of Health with access to the data gathered in their work, which are necessary in order to maintain health registers under paras. 1 and 2, or in order to carry out monitoring under this Act. These bodies shall consult with the

Medical Director of Health regarding the gathering of such data and submission of it to the Medical Director of Health. Data under this provision shall be provided to the Medical Director of Health free of charge.

The Medical Director of Health can, with the Minister's consent, assign healthcare facilities and self-employed healthcare practitioners, or other parties, to handle certain registers organised by the Medical Director under paras. 1 and 2. A written agreement shall be made on such registers, specifying *inter alia* the keeper of the register, rules of procedure and security standards, content, processing, right of disposal, use and promulgation of information, duration of the agreement, and provisions for revision.

The keeper of the register must inform the Medical Director of Health of all matters concerning maintenance of the register when requested, and provide the Medical Director with all data he/she requires with respect to his/her mandated role. Such data shall be provided to the Medical Director of Health free of charge.

The Medical Director of Health may charge a fee for processing and delivery of data from health registers, in accord with regulations issued by the Minister.

Access to personally-identifiable data from health registers under para. 2 for scientific research purposes is subject to the provisions of para. 3 art. 15 of the Patients' Rights Act.

Gathering and handling of data under this provision shall be in accord with the provisions of the Personal Privacy and Handling of Personal Data Act, and shall meet the criteria of the Data Protection Authority for security of personal data in records in the health sector.

The Minister can make further provisions in regulations for the form and processing of health registers, promulgation of data, and publication of health reports.

Art. 9

Recording of unforeseen incidents

Healthcare facilities, self-employed healthcare practitioners and others who provide health services shall maintain a register of unforeseen incidents, for the purpose of

seeking explanations for them and seeking ways of ensuring that they do not recur. An unforeseen incident is defined as an accident, error, negligence or other incident which has harmed or could have harmed a patient.

Healthcare practitioners who are involved, their professional superiors and other staff of the healthcare facility, as applicable, must record all unforeseen incidents under para. 1.

Healthcare facilities, self-employed healthcare practitioners and others who provide healthcare service shall regularly submit to the Medical Director of Health a summary of all unforeseen incidents under para. 1, as further determined by the Medical Director of Health.

The Minister may make further provision in regulations for the recording of unforeseen incidents.

Art. 10

Mandated reporting

Healthcare facilities, self-employed healthcare practitioners and others who provide healthcare services must notify the Medical Director of Health without delay of any unforeseen incident which has caused or could have caused serious harm to a patient, such as death or grave disablement. The patient shall also be informed of the unforeseen incident without unnecessary delay, and his/her closest relatives where applicable.

The Medical Director of Health shall investigate such cases in order to seek an explanation for them and to ensure as far as possible that they do not recur. The Medical Director of Health shall be provided with the information and documents he/she deems necessary in the investigation of the case. The Medical Director of Health shall have ready access to healthcare facilities and premises of self-employed healthcare practitioners for the purposes of investigation.

Should an unforeseen death occur at a healthcare facility or other place where healthcare services are provided, which is regarded as probably attributable to error, negligence or a mishap in treatment or preventive measures with respect to an illness,

in addition to the notification to the Medical Director of Health this shall be reported to the police, in accord with the provisions of the Act on Death Certificates, Autopsies, etc.

The Medical Director of Health shall maintain a constantly-updated register of unforeseen incidents under art. 9.

The Medical Director of Health shall send the Minister an annual summary of unforeseen incidents, findings of investigations, and results of cases.

The Minister may make further provisions in Regulations for mandated reporting, response, investigation of cases, the Medical Director's register of unforeseen incidents and the publication of such data.

Art. 11

Quality development plan

The Medical Director of Health makes a plan for quality development within the health service, which shall be submitted to the Minister for confirmation. The quality development plan shall aim to enhance the quality and security of health services, and be conducive to its development.

Healthcare facilities and healthcare practitioners shall in the making of quality plans take account of the Medical Director's confirmed quality development plan.

The Medical Director of Health assesses quality and performance within the health service with respect to yardsticks laid down by the Minister in Regulations. Comparative findings of quality and performance assessment shall be published in health reports under art. 8.

Art. 12

Complaints to the Medical Director of Health

The Medical Director of Health must handle matters concerning interaction between the public and providers of health services, and provide guidance to those

who consult him/her on matters of the health service.

A formal complaint may be made to the Medical Director of Health with respect to alleged negligence or error in provision of health service. Users of health services may also make a formal complaint to the Medical Director of Health if they feel that healthcare staff have behaved inappropriately in provision of health service.

Complaints shall be in writing, and shall clearly state the cause of the complaint.

A complaint shall be made to the Medical Director of Health without unnecessary delay. Should more than ten years have passed since the event on which the complaint is based, the Medical Director of Health should dismiss the complaint, unless special circumstances justify in his/her judgement that the complaint be considered.

The Medical Director of Health shall normally elicit an opinion from a disinterested specialist or specialists in a case of alleged negligence or error in diagnosis or treatment. The specialists in question, and the Medical Director of Health him/herself, should call the patient for examination if special cause so requires. The procedure of complaints is otherwise subject to the provisions of the Public Administration Act as may be applicable. At the conclusion of the procedure the Medical Director of Health gives a written opinion. The Medical Director of Health shall in his/her opinion specify the cause of the complaint, the facts of the case, and the grounds for his/her findings. A general conclusion shall be stated at the end of the written opinion.

Handling of a case under this provision may be appealed to the Minister.

SECTION III
Monitoring of healthcare practitioners

Art. 13

Monitoring of healthcare practitioners by the Medical Director of Health

The Medical Director of Health monitors the work of healthcare practitioners, and monitors their compliance with the provisions of health legislation and of other legislation, and government instructions as appropriate.

The Medical Director of Health may require a healthcare practitioner to undergo specialist examination if he/she deems necessary, in order to ascertain whether he/she is fit to perform his/her work. Should a healthcare practitioner be suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other substances at work, the Medical Director of Health may require him/her to undergo immediate tests to ascertain whether this is so.

Art. 14

Reprimand

Should the Medical Director of Health become aware that a healthcare practitioner neglects his/her professional duties, exceeds his/her professional boundaries, or violates the provisions of health legislation. The Medical Director shall give the healthcare practitioner instructions on rectification, or reprimand him/her, according to the circumstances. Should the healthcare practitioner not comply with the Medical Director's instructions, provided without reprimand, the Medical Director shall reprimand him/her.

The issue of a reprimand shall comply with the provisions of the Public Administration Act. The reprimand shall be in writing and cite grounds, and shall invariably be issued with respect to a specified event or events. A reprimand shall be issued without unnecessary delay. The Medical Director of Health sends a copy of the reprimand to the Minister.

A decision of the Medical Director of Health to issue a reprimand may be appealed to the Minister.

Art. 15

Revocation of licence

Should a reprimand to a healthcare practitioner under art. 14 not prove effective, the Medical Director of Health must report the matter to the Minister, and make proposals on measures. The Minister can determine that the licence of the person in question be revoked, permanently or temporarily.

The Minister can revoke the licence of a healthcare practitioner without prior reprimand, as proposed by the Medical Director of Health, if the person in question is deemed incapable of performing his/her duties in an acceptable manner, for instance due to mental problems, mental or physical illness, use of drugs or other substances, abuse of alcohol or lack of professional competence.

The same applies in the case of a healthcare practitioner grossly violating his/her professional duties, for instance by issuing wrong or misleading medical certificates, giving a physician's report without examination of the case, issuing wrong or misleading invoices, violating his/her duty of confidentiality, or by gross negligence in his/her work, or other conduct contrary to law.

If the circumstances exist to justify revocation of a licence, the Minister may, as proposed by the Medical Director of Health, restrict the person's rights temporarily. The nature of the restrictions shall be specified, and also their duration and the nature of monitoring. Procedures in decision-making on revocation or restriction of licences are subject to the provisions of the Public Administration Act.

However, if there is strong evidence to suggest that the criteria for revocation of a licence are met, and that a delay in revocation could entail risk to patients, the Medical Director of Health may revoke the licence of a healthcare practitioner with immediate effect, until a final decision under paras. 1 and 2 has been reached. The Medical Director of Health shall notify provisional revocation of a licence to the Minister without delay. Should the Minister not have made a decision to revoke the licence under para. 1 within three months, the provisional revocation is rescinded.

Should a healthcare practitioner base his/her right to practise in Iceland on a licence issued in another country, his/her right to practise in Iceland is revoked if his/her licence is revoked in that country.

The right of a healthcare practitioner to practise is revoked if he/she is declared legally incompetent, or if he/she no longer meets the criteria which applied when the right to practise was granted.

Art. 16

Surrender of licence

A healthcare practitioner can surrender his/her licence by written notification to the Minister. This does not preclude a reprimand under art. 14 where appropriate, nor formal revocation of licence under art. 15, in the case of professional misconduct which may entail revocation.

Art. 17

Re-granting of licence

The Minister can, on the proposal of the Medical Director of Health, grant a licence anew to a healthcare practitioner whose licence has been revoked, or who has surrendered his/her licence, provided that the person in question has demonstrated that he/she meets the criteria of law for re-granting of the licence, and that the reasons which led to the revocation or surrender of the licence no longer apply. The Minister can determine that the new licence shall be granted on a provisional or restricted basis, cp. art. 15.

SECTION IV

Prescriptions

Art. 18

Monitoring of prescriptions

The Medical Director of Health monitors prescriptions for medication in general, and observes developments in use of medications.

The Medical Director of Health shall especially monitor physicians' and dentists' prescriptions for addictive drugs, including their prescriptions for addictive drugs for their own use. The Medical Director of Health shall consult with the Medicines Control Agency with respect to the practice of monitoring of prescriptions for medications. The Medicines Control Agency shall notify the Medical Director of Health if it believes that it has probable cause for special monitoring of prescriptions for a drug, and especially addictive drugs. The Medical Director's access to data in the pharmaceutical database with respect to monitoring of prescriptions is subject to the provisions of the Pharmaceuticals Act.

Art. 19

Revocation of right to prescribe

Should a physician or dentist be found to have prescribed medications in violation of law or government instructions, or in a manner deemed inappropriate, the Medical Director of Health shall reprimand him/her. Should a reprimand from the Medical Director of Health under art. 14 prove ineffective, the Medical Director of Health must report the matter to the Minister and make proposals on measures. The Minister can then decide to revoke the physician's or dentist's right to prescribe medications of any kind or in specific categories, if revocation of licence under art. 15 is not deemed warranted.

The procedure in decision-making on revocation of the right to prescribe medications of any kind or in specific categories is subject to the provisions of the Public Administration Act.

If there is strong evidence to suggest that the criteria for revocation of the right to

prescribe are met, and that a delay in revocation could entail risk to patients, the Medical Director of Health may, however, revoke the licence of physician or dentist with immediate effect, until a final decision under para. 1 has been reached. The Medical Director of Health shall notify provisional revocation to the Minister without delay. Should the Minister not have made a decision to revoke the right to prescribe under para. 1 within three months, the provisional revocation is rescinded.

Art. 20

Re-granting of right to prescribe

The Minister can, on the proposal of the Medical Director of Health, reverse the revocation under art. 19 of the right to prescribe medications of all kinds or in specific categories, if the person in question has demonstrated that the reasons which led to the revocation no longer apply.

SECTION V

Various provisions

Art. 21

Notification

Revocation, surrender or restriction of a professional licence, and revocation of the right to prescribe, and the re-granting of these rights, cp. arts. 15-17 and 19 and 20, shall be notified to the Medical Director of Health, the Medicines Control Agency, the employer and others who may be concerned, and also to those States which Iceland is obliged under international law to notify.

Art. 22

Regulations

The Minister can make further provisions in Regulations on the implementation of this Act.

Art. 23

Entry into force

This Act takes effect on 1 September 2007.

Art. 24

Amendments to other legislation

When this Act takes effect, the following amendments will be made to other legislation:

- 1 *Physicians Act no. 53/1988 with subsequent amendments.*
 - a Art. 18 of the Act is worded thus:

A physician is subject to monitoring by the Medical Director of Health as provided in the Medical Director of Health Act.
 - b Art. 18a of the Act is omitted.
 - c Section IV of the Act, **Prescriptions**, is omitted
 - d Art. 27 of the Act is worded thus:

Reprimands and revocation of licences granted on the basis of this Act are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.
 - e Art. 28 and 29 of the Act are omitted.
 - f Para. 1 art. 30 of the Act is worded thus:

Violation of the provisions of this Act entail, in addition to revocation of the licence to practise medicine under the Medical Director of Health Act cp. art. 27, fines or imprisonment for up to two years.
- 2 *Nursing Act no. 8/1974 with subsequent amendments*

Art. 7 is worded thus:

Monitoring of nurses, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or

restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act. The same applies to those whose nursing licence has been recognised by the Minister of Health and Social Security under item 2, para. 1 art.

3 *Occupational Therapy Act no. 75/1977 with subsequent amendments.*

a Art. 10 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of occupational therapists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

b The words “revocation of a licence and re-granting of a licence” in item 2 para. 1 art. 11 are omitted

4 *Developmental Therapists Act no. 18/1978.*

a The following amendments are made to art. 2 of the Act:

1 Para. 1 is worded thus:

A licence as provided in art. 1 shall be granted to those who have graduated from the Developmental Therapy programme of the Iceland University of Education.

2 The words “Icelandic College of Developmental Therapy” in para. 2 are replaced by: Developmental Therapy programme of the Iceland University of Education.

b Art. 7 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of developmental therapists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to developmental therapists and to penalties for professional misconduct.

5 *Biomedical Scientists Act, no. 99/1980 with subsequent amendments.*

Art. 8 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of biomedical scientists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-

granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Biomedical Scientists Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to biomedical scientists and to penalties for professional misconduct.

6 *Opticians Act no. 17/1984 with subsequent amendments.*

Para. 1 art. 9 of the Act are replaced by two new paragraphs to be worded thus:
Monitoring of opticians, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to opticians and to penalties for professional misconduct.

7 *Midwives Act no. 67/1984 with subsequent amendments.*

Art. 8 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of midwives, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act. The same applies to those whose midwifery licence has been recognised by the Minister of Health and Social Security under item 2, para. 1 art. 1.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to midwives and to penalties for professional misconduct.

8 *Dentistry Act no. 38/1985 with subsequent amendments.*

a Art. 12 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of dentists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act. The same applies to those whose midwifery licence has been recognised by the Minister of Health and Social Security under item 2, para. 1 art. 1.

b Para. 2 art. 15 of the Act is omitted.

c The words “no. 80 of 23 June 1969” in art. 16 of the Act are omitted.

9 *Social Work Act no. 95/1990.*

Art. 8 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of social workers, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to social workers and to penalties for professional misconduct.

10 *Physiotherapy Act no. 58/1976 with subsequent amendments.*

a Art. 10 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of physiotherapists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

b Para. 1 art. 11 of the Act is worded thus:

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to physiotherapists and to penalties for professional misconduct.

11 *Psychologists Act no. 40/1976 with subsequent amendments.*

Arts. 4-6 of the Act are replaced by a new article, worded thus:

Monitoring of psychologists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to psychologists and to penalties for professional misconduct.

12 *Second-level Nurses Act no. 58/1984 with subsequent amendments.*

Art. 7 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of second-level nurses, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to second-level nurses and to penalties for professional misconduct.

13 *Pharmacists Act no. 35/1978 with subsequent amendments.*

Arts. 13 and 14 of the Act are replaced by a new article, worded thus:

Monitoring of pharmacists, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to pharmacists and to penalties for professional misconduct.

14 *Professional Titles and Professional Rights of Healthcare Professions Act no. 24/1985 with subsequent amendments.*

Art. 6 of the Act is worded thus:

Monitoring of professions covered by this Act, issuing of reprimands and revocation of licences or restriction of professional rights granted under this Act, and re-granting of such rights, are subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health Act.

The provisions of the Physicians Act otherwise apply, as applicable, to professions covered by this Act and to penalties for professional misconduct.

15 *Patients' Rights Act no. 74/1997 with subsequent amendments.*

a Para. 2 art. 2 of the Act is worded thus:

Healthcare practitioner: Person working in health services, licensed by the Minister of Health and Social Security to use to the professional title of a legally-recognised health profession.

b Para. 2 art. 28 of the Act is worded thus:

Should a patient wish to make a complaint regarding treatment, the complaint may be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Passed by Alþingi 17 March 2007.