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The Provisions of the Physiotherapists Registration
Act, 1945, and Limitations on Persons not
Registered under the Act.

1. The Commission wishes to draw the attention of all hospitals to the following provisions of the Physiotherapists Registration Act, 1945 -

"Section 2 - Definition of Physiotherapy

"Physiotherapy" means the use of external application to the human body of massage, being the manipulation of the soft tissues of the human body, passive movements, remedial exercises, muscle re-education, electricity, heat, light, sound, water, ultrasonic therapy apparatus, or any proclaimed method, for the purpose of curing or alleviating any abnormal condition of the human body, and includes the application of any medical or surgical appliance so far as the application of such appliance is necessary in the use as aforesaid of massage, passive movements, remedial exercises, muscle re-education, electricity, heat, light, sound, water, or any proclaimed method.

Section 26

- (1) A person who is not registered under this Act shall not -
- (a) practise physiotherapy;
- (b) take or use the name or title of physiotherapist, physiotherapist, physical therapist or physical therapist or electrotherapist, hold himself out as being a physiotherapist or a physiotherapist, or a physical therapist or physical therapist or electrotherapist or assume, take, or use, any name, initials, word, title, addition, symbol or description which, having regard to the circumstances in which it is assumed, taken or used, indicates, or is capable of being understood to indicate, or is calculated to lead

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persons to infer, that he is registered under this Act as a physiotherapist, or is qualified to be registered under this Act as a physiotherapist, or is competent or willing to practise physiotherapy in contravention of this section.

(2) Nothing in this section shall operate to prevent the practice of physiotherapy -

(a) by a medical practitioner or a dentist registered under the Dentists Act, 1934, as amended by subsequent Acts, in the ordinary course of his practice as a medical practitioner or dentist, as the case may be;

(b) by a nurse acting under instructions given to him or her by a medical practitioner, dentist registered as aforesaid, or physiotherapist;

(c) by a person who practises physiotherapy in the course of his undergoing a course of study and training in physiotherapy conducted by any body in New South Wales recognised by the Board for the purposes of subparagraph (d) of subsection one of section twenty-one of this Act and who does so acting under the direct instructions and personal supervision of a medical practitioner, dentist registered as aforesaid, or physiotherapist;

(d) being such part of the practice of physiotherapy as consists of the use by external application to the human body of ultrasonic therapy apparatus, by any person authorised by the Board to so use such apparatus;

(e) being such part of the practice of physiotherapy as consists of the use by external application to the human body of massage, being the manipulation of the soft tissues of the human body, passive movements, remedial exercises, muscle re-education, or heat -

(i) by any person in the course of the practice by him of chiropractic, osteopathy or chiropody;

(ii) by any person in conjunction with the practice by him of face or scalp massage where such part of the practice of physiotherapy as aforesaid is practised for cosmetic purposes only; or

(iii) by any person in the course of training persons engaged in or training for physical culture or any games, sports or athletics or for the purpose of curing or alleviating injuries received by persons in the course of their being engaged in or training for physical culture or any games, sports or athletics.

(3) In this section -

"Chiropractic" means the system of palpating and adjusting the articulations of the human spinal

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column by hand only, for the relief of nerve pressure.

"Osteopathy" means the adjustment by hand only of the bones or soft tissue of the human body for the purpose of curing or alleviating any disease or abnormal condition of the human body.

"Chiropody" means the care of the nails and the treatment of their disorders and the treatment of superficial excrescences of the feet.

- (4) A person guilty of an offence against this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars."

In the light of the provisions of the Act, hospitals should ensure that no person is employed as a Physiotherapist or allowed to perform the work of a Physiotherapist, unless such person is registered in accordance with the Act.

The contents of this Circular should be brought to the notice of all staff responsible for the employment of Physiotherapists.

H. C. EAGLETON,
Secretary.