

MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE

Policy On Exemption From The Requirement To Register By Visiting Medical/Dental Practitioners

Background

One of the roles of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe (MDPCZ) is to control the practice of medicine in the country by ensuring that any person who performs or undertakes to perform any act specifically pertaining to the practice of a medical/dental practitioner or uses the title of a medical/dental practitioner or any name, title description or symbol indicating or calculated to lead persons to infer that he/she possesses a degree, diploma or other any specialist qualification as a medical/dental practitioner registered under this Act is obliged to register with the Council. **(Section 121 (c) and 122(c) Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) refers.** Notwithstanding, **Section 129** of the said Act, provides for the exemption from the requirement to register by visiting practitioners under different circumstances.

Introduction

The MDPCZ continues to value the contribution by the visiting lecturers in the medical/dental education of our undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as providing voluntary medical/dental service to the population of Zimbabwe. The efforts by the visiting lecturers comprehend and support the efforts by the local Senior Specialists in the training of doctors. There is no doubt that the contribution by the visiting lectures impacts positively on the ultimate care of the patients. ***The better the training, the better the care (GMC Medical Education) 2012.*** Council at its meeting held on 28 May 2013 **RESOLVED** that a Policy be formulated that will assist in streamlining the process of registration and exemption from the requirement to register for the different categories of visiting practitioners that support Council's value system of continuous quality improvement.

1. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to:-

- i) Grant exemption to deserving medical and dental practitioners visiting the country.
- ii) To streamline the process of registration in line with the Council's strategic plan

2. Policy

Council may exempt a medical or dental practitioner not resident from the requirement to register under the following circumstances as provided in **Section 129 of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19).**

- 2.1 Upon an invitation by a registered medical/dental practitioner to consult a patient.
- 2.2 Upon request by a patient to attend to them.

2.3 Upon an appointment by the Council or any other body approved by the Council to conduct examinations.

2.4 Visit by a practitioner who is a member of a Naval, Military and or Police force of a country other than Zimbabwe.

2.5 A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross visiting the country on the consent of the government.

2.6 Any person who is engaged for a period up to 4 months solely in teaching or research.

2.7 Upon promulgation in the government gazette by the Minister a class of persons to carry out for gain specified duties connected with the promotion of the primary health care.

3. VISITING PRACTITIONER ATTENDING TO A LOCAL PATIENT AT THE INVITE OF THE PATIENT/ BY A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ATTENDING TO THE PATIENT

3.1 Requirements

- i) Completion of a form;
- ii) Submission of an up to date curriculum vitae
- iii) Submission of a recent Certificate of Good Standing from the state board/ regulatory authority;
- iv) 2 passport size photographs;
- v) Proof of invite from the local patient;
- vi) Written confirmation from the local practitioner of the same professional standing who will be supervising the treatment of the patient and providing continued care.

3.2 Conditions of Exemption

The practitioner will be exempted from the requirement to Register but the exemption shall **NOT** absolve the practitioner from being subjected to the provisions of PART XIX (discipline of health practitioners) The practitioner will be issued a letter of exemption of the period of the mission.

- i) To provide medical/dental work with a local registered practitioner of the same professional status who will provide a report to Council at the end of the mission and provide continued care.
- ii) To only practise in registered health institutions.
- iii) To provide medical/dental work for the duration of the intended duration which should not exceed 4 months.
- iv) Written report from the supervising practitioner on completion of the mission.

4. VISITING PRACTITIONER TO PROVIDE TEACHING WITHOUT ACCESS TO PATIENTS

4.1. Requirements

- (i) Completion of an application form
- (ii) An up to date curriculum vitae
- (iii) Submission of a recent Certificate(s) of Good Standing from the state board/ regulatory authority;

- (iv) 2 passport size photographs;
- (v) Proof of invite from the relevant department of the teaching institution indicating purpose of the visit

4.2 Conditions of the Exemption

The practitioner will be exempted **from the requirement to Register but the exemption shall NOT absolve the practitioner from being subjected to the provisions of PART XIX (discipline of health practitioners) The practitioner will be issued of a letter of exemption for the period of the mission.**

- i) To provide the teaching for the duration of the intended duration which should not exceed 4 months.
- ii) The coordinator will submit a report to Council on completion of the period of the mission.

5. VISIT BY PRACTITIONERS ON THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT/UPON PROMULGATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE BY THE HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH & C.W. (Council to liaise with the Ministry to ensure that the following requirements are met)

5.1 Requirements

- (i) Completion of application forms.
- (ii) An up to date curriculum vitae
- (iii) Submission of a recent Certificate(s) of Good Standing from the state board/ regulatory authority;
- (iv) 2 passport size photographs;
- (v) Proof of invite from the local medical/dental practitioner/Secretary for Health & C.W.
- (vi) Nature of the services to be provided.
- (vii) Written confirmation from the local practitioner of the same professional standing who will supervising the medical/dental team.

5.2 Conditions of Exemption

The practitioner will be exempted **from the requirement to Register but the exemption shall NOT absolve the practitioner from being subjected to the provisions of PART XIX (discipline of health practitioners) The practitioners will be issued individual letters of exemption for the period of the mission.**

- i) To provide medical/dental work under the supervision of a nominated local registered practitioner of the same professional status who will provide a report to Council at the end of the mission.
- ii) To practise in registered health institutions.
- iii) To provide medical/dental work for the duration of the intended duration which should not exceed 4 months.
- iv) Medical work to be provided in a public institution.
- v) The local Coordinator will submit a report on the performance of each practitioner.

APPROVED BY 27 AUGUST 2013 COUNCIL MEETING.2013

AMENDED BY 26 NOVEMBER 2013 COUNCIL MEETING

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