



## POLICY ON BACK UP COVER IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS

### BACKGROUND

The essence of good clinical governance for a Health Institution is through its Board and Executive being accountable to patients by ensuring that the care that is delivered is safe, effective and efficient. The institution through its Executive, Clinical Leaders and Managers have a responsibility for the safety and quality of service provided at the institution. This is reciprocated by the staff and organization for delivery of safe and quality services. (IAMRA 2006).

In this event the importance of Health Institutions to have clearly spelt out arrangements of cover and back up service with individual Specialists with right of access to the health institution cannot be overemphasized.

### INTRODUCTION.

Council at its meeting held on 26 May 2011 RESOLVED that the Education and Liaison Committee whose membership is composed of representatives of the Council major stake holders should look into the issue of defining a POLICY on the requirement for every health institution to have a Specialist Back Up Cover to attend to a patient in the event that the attending Specialist cannot be contacted for any reason. This is in line with the fundamental role of the Council provided in Section 30 (i) of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) which obliges Council to assist in the promotion of the health of the population of Zimbabwe as read together with the provisions of Section 30(1)(i) which mandates the Council to define and enforce ethical and professional practice to all registered members. Medical Directors of registered health institutions with the Council are obliged to ensure the full implementation of this Policy within their individual health institutions in line with the Council Policy on Administration of Health Institutions.

### PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

1. To ensure that there is back up specialist cover for the respective specialists with privilege of access in any private health care institution.
2. To ensure that Clinical staff shall call for the respective specialist back up service to attend to a patient should the need arise without difficult.

### POLICY

1. All Private Hospitals should have a written contract with individual Specialists upon granting of a right of access clearly spelling out BACK UP COVER which the Clinical staff shall follow should a patient's attending Specialist be uncontactable for any reason.
2. All Institutions have a responsibility of ensuring that patients in their institution have alternative care.

Approved November 2011

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
19/6/15