



AMENDED POLICY ON PRIVATE PRACTICE IN ZIMBABWE.

Background

One of the super ordinate goals of the Council set out in the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe (MDPCZ) Strategic Plan (2010-2015) is to improve the retention of health professionals. To achieve this goal, Council adopted an accommodative strategy by inter-alia coming up with a Policy that defines conditions under which categories of registered medical and dental practitioners are issued of license to practice. These include restricted, limited private practice or Open Practising Certificate (OPC). This approach has been a result of the growing numbers of applications for re-registration with the Council from returning Zimbabweans.

Introduction

In May 2011 the MDPCZ developed a Policy on issue of licence to practise to both returning Zimbabweans and Non Zimbabweans seeking re-registration to practise in Zimbabwe.

Purpose

Purpose of this policy is to define the conditions under which different categories of registered Medical and Dental practitioners may be issued unrestricted practising certificate to enable them to practise full independent practice or limited practice.

PRACTITIONERS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

1.1 POST INTERN MEDICAL/DENTAL PRACTITIONERS.

1.1.1 Zimbabweans with local qualifications.

1.1.2 Zimbabweans with foreign qualifications and local internship.

1.1.3 Zimbabweans with foreign qualifications and foreign internship

1.1.4 Non Zimbabweans with local qualifications.

1.1.5 Non Zimbabwean Doctors with foreign qualifications.

1.2 RETURNING ZIMBABWEANS.

1.3 NON ZIMBABWEANS (FOREIGN) MEDICAL/DENTAL PRACTITIONERS.

2. PRACTITIONERS WHO MAY BE GRANTED LIMITED PRIVATE PRACTICE

2.1 POST INTERN DOCTORS

2.1.1 Zimbabweans with local qualifications.

2.1.2 Zimbabweans with foreign qualifications and local internship.

2.1.3 Non- Zimbabwean doctors with local qualifications.

Limited Private Practice to undertake GME year may be granted to Post Intern Zimbabwean Doctors locally qualified, Post Intern Zimbabwean Doctors with foreign qualifications as well as non Zimbabwean Post Intern locally qualified Doctors under the following conditions.

- Successful completion of the first and second year internship.
- Undertaking GME year in a Designated Health Institution
- Should practice within the confines of the skills of a supervisor/named mentor.
- Patients are seen on a locum basis on behalf of the supervisor.
- Should be undertaken outside normal working hours so as not to interfere with other GME duties at the DHI.
- All prescriptions for dangerous Drugs should be ratified by the supervisor/named mentor.

2.1.4 Zimbabweans with foreign qualification and foreign internship with no experience

Limited Private Practice may be granted to Zimbabwean doctors with foreign qualifications who undertake internship out of Zimbabwe under the following conditions.

- Successful completion of internship.
- Undertaking 2 years GME in a Designated Health Institution
- Should practice within the confines of the skills of a supervisor/named mentor.
- Patients are seen on a locum basis on behalf of the supervisor.
- Should be undertaken outside normal working hours so as not to interfere with other GME duties at the DHI.
- All prescriptions for dangerous Drugs should be ratified by the supervisor/named mentor

2.2 NON ZIMBABWEAN DOCTORS WITH FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS WHO UNDERTAKE INTERNSHIP IN ZIMBABWE

May be permitted to undertake limited private practice during their 2nd years of GME under the following conditions

- Successful completion of the first and second year internship.
- Should practice within the confines of the skills of a supervisor/named mentor.
- Patients are seen on a locum basis on behalf of the supervisor.
- Should be undertaken outside normal working hours so as not to interfere with other GME duties at the DHI
- All prescriptions for dangerous Drugs should be ratified by the supervisor/named mentor.

2.3 NON ZIMBABWEAN DOCTORS WITH FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS WHO UNDERTOOK INTERNSHIP OUTSIDE ZIMBABWE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the practitioner is acclimatized to the system and standards of practise in the country before being granted permission to undertake independent private practice.

Limited Private Practice may be granted to foreign (Non Zimbabwean) Medical/Dental practitioners on the provisional register under the following conditions.

- Upon successful completion of 2 years supervised practise in a Designated Health Institution with reports on each of 3, 6, 12, 18 and 24 months work.
- Practise in a registered premises with a registered practitioner.
- Patients are seen on a locum basis on behalf of the supervisor/named mentor.

3. PRACTITIONERS WHO MAY BE GRANTED PRIVATE PRACTICE

3.1 Independent private practice may be permitted by the Council to Zimbabwean Medical/Dental practitioners and locally qualified Non Zimbabweans with permanent resident status after fulfilling the following conditions.

- Successful completion of the first and second year internship.
- Successful completion of the mandatory 12 months GME year in a Designated Health Institution.
- No outstanding disciplinary issues

3.2 RETURNING ZIMBABWEANS SEEKING RE-REGISTRATION

3.2.1 Medical Practitioners

Returning Zimbabweans foreign trained with foreign internship:

- 1) The practitioner should be adequately trained post qualification
- 2) The practitioner should be acclimatised to the Zimbabwean environment;
- 3) Must have acquired a minimum of 2 years post internship experience in a recognized general practice or equivalent GME. (not any form of practice will be recognized for this purpose)

- 4) The practitioner should spend 3 months acclimatization in a Designated Health Institution (DHI) as a GMO/supervised practise for dental practitioners. This requires obtaining a post with a suitable DHI, (list supplied on the Council website)
- 5) During the acclimatization period the practitioner can apply for limited practising license.
- 6) They can apply for "OPC after successful completion of the 3 months acclimatization in a DHI.
- 7) Above all each application is treated on merit.

3.2.2 Dental Practitioners.

- 1) The practitioner should be adequately trained post qualification
- 2) The practitioner should be acclimatised to the Zimbabwean environment;
- 3) Must have acquired a minimum of 2 years post internship experience in a recognized general practice. (not any form of practice will be recognized for this purpose)
- 4) The practitioner should spend 3 months acclimatization under a nominated registered mentor
- 5) During the period of acclimatization the practitioner can apply for limited private practice.
- 6) Practitioner can apply for Open Practising Certificate (OPC) after successful completion of the 3 months acclimatization under a selected mentor.
- 7) Above all each application is treated on its own merit.

3.3 Non Zimbabwean Medical and Dental Practitioners

Full private practise may be granted to non- Zimbabwean (foreign) medical/dental practitioners after fulfilling the following conditions.

- Must appear on a Register of Medical or Dental Practitioners maintained by the Council for a continuous period of at least 5 years and attainment of permanent resident status.
- No outstanding disciplinary issues



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