

## MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE



### POSITION PAPER ON THE OPERATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES (ECFMG)

#### Background

The prevalence of fake diplomas has been fuelled by easy access to advanced technology. For the past 25 years ECFMG has verified 500 000 documents for doctors applying for registration in the majority of the world medical regulatory authorities (MRAs) with a view to ensure patient safety. ECFMG has developed a medical credentials reference library with sample of verified credentials as well as authenticated official signatures and institutional seals. The practice of source verification of credentials is highly encouraged by IAMRA as it is one of the principles of medical regulation. Most MRAs in the Sub-Saharan region this includes the Health Professions of South Africa utilizes the services of ECFMG in addition to the requirement for examination in the registration process of foreign medical graduates.

#### Introduction

The Council at its meeting held on 17 June 2014 resolved that the Practice Control Committee adopts the process of source verification with ECFMG. A Skype meeting was held with Bill Kelly, Coordinator from the ECFMG, Philadelphia who advised on the following process on how ECFMG which is situated in Philadelphia USA operates in evaluating credentials relating to medical education, training and licensure as well as clinical skills.

#### 1. Modus operandi

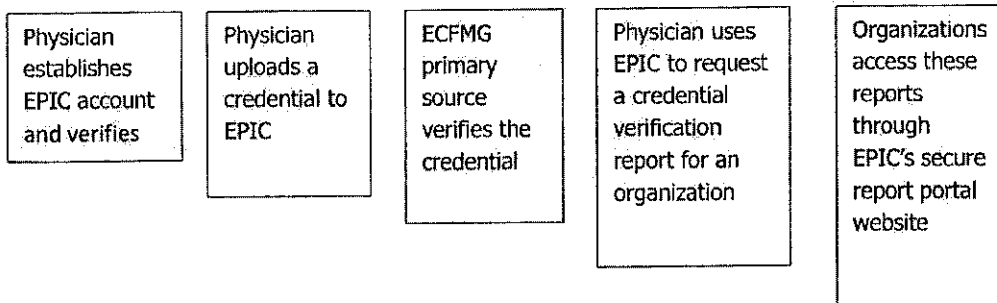
##### 1.1 Primary source verification

Processes of ECFMG conducting the institution that issued qualifications such as:-

- Medical degree
- Internship rotations
- Also contact the initial registration body that registered and issued the registration and license to practise.
- Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC) introduced in 2013, respective doctors applying an EPCI account with ECFMG.

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19/4/15

## 2. Pathway



### The cost to doctors

Establish an EPIC Account (one-time fee)	\$75
Add a Credential to Portfolio  Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary-source verification of credential by ECFMG with the issuing institution (up to four verification requests by ECFMG)</li> <li>• Electronic storage of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Credential</li> <li>◦ English translation of credential provided by physician (if credential is not in English)</li> <li>◦ verification form from issuing institution (viewable only by organizations that establish an EPIC Report Portal account)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$75 per credential
Request to Send Report Verifying the Authenticity of a Credential  Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic transmission of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ ECFMG EPIC verification report</li> <li>◦ Credential</li> <li>◦ English translation of credential provided by physician (if credential is not in English)</li> <li>◦ verification form from issuing institution (viewable only by organizations that establish an EPIC Report Portal account)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Secure, web-based access for the recipient to retrieve these documents</li> </ul>	\$15 per credential

### ESTABLISHING THE EPIC REPORT PORTAL

- An authorised official of an organization must complete the designated form, designating one individual to serve as the institution's EPIC Coordinator.

- The EPIC Coordinator will work with ECFMG to establish and maintain the institution's EPIC Report Portal account, including adding and deleting authorised users, and will serve as an authorised user of the account.
- Additional authorised users can also be designated on this form.
- All authorised users will be able to access all EPIC Reports sent to that organization.
- An institution may allow physicians to request that ECFMG notify the institution when they have established an EPIC account.
- If an institution would like to receive these notifications, the authorised official should indicate this on the form.
- Notifications will be delivered to the institution through the EPIC Report Portal.
- All authorised users of the institution's EPIC Report Portal account will be able to access all notifications sent to that institution.
- If the institution is a medical regulatory authority, the authorised official who completes this form must be the President, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Executive Director, Principal, or must hold a similar post.
- Once the account has been created, ECFMG will contact the Coordinator and any additional authorised users with instructions on how to access the EPIC Report Portal.

#### **Benefits to the MDPCZ**

1. Assist in challenges of verifying credentials.
2. Exposes fraudulent credentials primary source verification serves as a strong deterrent to practitioners who scheme to submit fraudulent credentials
3. At no cost to Council.

***APPROVED OCTOBER 2014***

