

MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE**Policy on Internship Training**

Section 90 (3) of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) provides that an Intern registered on the Register of Vocational Trainees shall have his name erased from such a Register after a period of 30 months from the date of such registration unless he satisfies Council to cause the period of training to be extended.

Introduction

Internship is part of the training of a doctor. Medicine/Dentistry is dynamic hence the practitioner needs to be in constant practice to maintain knowledge and skills. Periods spent outside practice leads to a deterioration of knowledge and skills. Re-orientation is critical in recognition of the interest of public safety as well as the doctor. In line with the above provision, it is necessary for Council to be satisfied that the respective doctor is adequately trained and acquire necessary skills and knowledge in the interest of the public.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to ensure safe practice by defining the period under which a medical/dental graduate who does not undertake internship rotations post-graduation resume practice.

Policy

Local medical and dental graduates with prescribed qualifications in terms of Section 85 of the Health Professions Act(Chapter 27:19) may undertake the internship period upon presentation of proof of deployment to a recognised Internship Teaching Unit by the Council.

Zimbabwean foreign trained medical and dental graduates may undertake internship subject to:

- i) Verification of the medical qualification by the Education Commission for Foreign (Medical Graduates) (EFMG),**
- ii) Registration by the Council to undertake a period of 3 to 12 months orientation and**

- iii) **Passing the Council registration examination within 18 months from date of qualifying.**
- iv) **Foreign trained graduates are given three chances to sit and pass the Council registration examination**

1. Medical /Dental graduates who do not undertake internship rotations for a period exceeding 18 months:

- 1.1. For those Interns who do not undertake internship for any reason for a period exceeding 18 months, they will be required to reorient in the 4th year medical/dental training programme.
- 1.2. On completion of the fifth year they will be required to sit and pass the Council examination after which they will then proceed to undertake internship rotations.

2. Failed to complete mandatory internship in the country and completed a recognised Internship training out of the country.

- 2.1 The Practice Control Committee will consider the recognised internship on merit.

3. Failed to complete the internship and has been practising as a medical/dental practitioner

- 3.1 Will be required to undertake the internship period.

4. Fails to complete internship due to illness or similar cause

- 4.1 Where an intern fails to complete the internship period within 30 months due to illness or similar cause, Council may extend the internship period on the merit of the case.

5. Absent from internship training for a period for any reason

- 5.1 Any doctor undertaking internship rotations who is absent from the internship training for a period not exceeding 30 months for any reason other than illness or similar cause will be required to repeat the rotations for the number of days that have been missed.

6. Mandatory Internship Rotations

6.1 Internship rotations shall consist of:

- 6.6.1 First year internship consists of: 6 months Surgery (3 months General Surgery and 3 months any subspecialty of Surgery) and 6 months Medicine (not necessarily in that order).

- 6.1.2. Second year internship consist of: 4 months Paediatrics, 4 months Obs & Gyn and either a choice of 4 months Anaesthetics or 4 months Psychiatry.

6.2. All interns are required to rotate in the Department of Pathology

- 6.2.1 All Interns are now required to undertake an aggregate period of 7 days attachment in the department of Pathology to observe, learn and do at least 5 supervised post-mortems in each of the first and second year rotations thus a total of 25 post-mortems as part of the fulfilment of the JRMO/SRMO logbook.

6.3 Industrial Action

- 6.3.1 If an Intern goes on strike for a duration less than their number of leave days, the days will be deducted from their leave days.
- 6.3.2 If they participate for a period which goes beyond their leave days, it will be treated in the same manner as those who fully participated in the industrial action.
- 6.3.3 Those that do not participate in the strike will not be affected.
- 6.3.4 Should one exceed the 30 months prescribed Internship period as a result of the strike, the policy on internship will be invoked.

6.4 Transfer from the Register of Interns to the Main/Provisional Register of Medical/Dental Practitioners

- 6.4.1 An Intern must apply for registration on the Main/Provisional Register of Medical/Dental Practitioners a day after the date of completion of the internship rotations.



Amacheka
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