



**ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL
COUNCILS OF AFRICA**

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND
ETHICS**

AMCOA PROTOCOL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS

WHEREAS dealing with “**Professional Conduct and Ethics**” in the member Councils of AMCOA take various forms both in structure and content; and

RECOGNISING the need to advance the objectives for enhancing and ensuring improved quality of care in relation to the practice; and

FURTHER RECOGNISING that ethical practice is an essential component in health regulation; and

FURTHER RECOGNISING the need to harmonize the procedures in the AMCOA region for promotion of professional and ethical conduct in healthcare.

WHEREAS on 12th November, 2012 the Respective Chairpersons and representatives of Councils of AMCOA member Countries signed the Protocol on Ethical and Professional Issues in Medical and Dental Practice and on 25th August, 2016 signed the Protocol on Medical and Dental Malpractice the Protocol herein consolidates both into AMCOA Protocol on Professional Conduct and Ethics

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES TO THIS PROTOCOL DO HEREBY ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED HEREIN AS A FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS IN THE REGION:-

Short title

This protocol may be cited as the AMCOA Protocol on Professional Conduct and Ethics.

1. INTERPRETATION

In this Protocol, unless the context otherwise indicates:-

“**A code of conduct**” shall mean a set of principles that characterise good medical practice and makes explicit the standards of ethical and professional conduct expected of doctors by their professional peers and the community.

“**AMCOA**” means Association of Medical Councils of Africa.

“**Council**” means Councils and Boards, as are applicable, in different Countries.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

It is agreed that Councils shall ensure that the following is observed in order to have standardized processes at national, regional and continental levels in the following areas namely:

2.1 Duties of a Doctor and other health professionals to:

- (a) patients;
- (b) colleagues; and,
- (c) society.

2.2 Duty to patients;

- (a) respect the patient's autonomy/privacy;
- (b) confidentiality;
- (d) adhering to the patient's Rights Charter;
- (e) acting in the best interest of patients;
- (f) uphold the dignity of the patients;
- (g) protecting the welfare of patients;
- (h) obtain informed consent;
- (i) report alleged abuse;
- (j) understand Cultural diversity;
- (k) non-discrimination;
- (l) duty of care, and
- (m) Attend to a patients in cases of emergencies

2.3 Duty to Colleagues and other healthcare professionals;

- (a) respect;
- (b) honesty;
- (c) transparency;
- (d) communication;
- (e) teamwork, and
- (f) knowledge sharing.

2.4 Duty to the Society

To maintain the highest standards of honour, integrity and dignity.

2.5 Three components of performance

- (a) Knowledge,

(b) attitude, and

(c) skills

2.6 Professional and Ethical Conduct

2.6.1 Standard of care

(a) Evidence based practise;

(b) shared decision making;

(c) attend to a patients in cases of emergencies Referrals, delegation and handover in an appropriate manner;

(d) accurate patient record keeping;

(e) work within one's scope of practise; and,

(f) provide reference and reports where necessary.

2.6.2 Maintain Good Professional Standing

(a) Maintenance of registration and licensure;

(b) continuing Professional Development ("CPD");

(c) follow the expected standard of care to minimize risks;

(d) understanding medico-legal issues;

(e) appropriate use of available resources;

(f) adherence to research ethics, and

(g) health education and promotion

2.6.3 Ensuring Fitness to practise

Councils shall ensure practitioners adhere to the fitness to practise guidelines as may be prescribed in their respective Countries.

2.6.4 Advertising

Councils shall ensure practitioners observe guidelines or the relevant Law on advertising as prescribed by their Regulatory Authorities or Countries.

2.6.5 Conflict of Interest

Boards/Councils shall ensure practitioners observe guidelines on conflict of interest as prescribed by their respective Regulatory Authorities.

3 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

It is agreed that Councils shall –

- a) verify documents directly from relevant institutions;
- b) exchange information between AMCOA member states;
- c) advise government to respect the mandate of Councils when signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between governments on health regulation issues;
- d) formalise accreditation of training facilities within AMCOA region
- e) ensure that ethics forms at least 10% of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points and all CPD providers have a component on ethics
- f) practitioners participate in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activities for improvement of knowledge and skills

4 PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT INQUIRIES AND ITS PROCESSES

It is agreed that Councils shall:-

- 4.1 Ensure that they observed the protocols on Disciplinary procedures in order to have standardized processes at national, regional and continental levels.
- 4.2 Ensure that all practitioners are conversant with the Code of Conduct through appropriate and timely training.

5 REGULATING IN LIMITED RESOURCES AND COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

It is agreed that Councils shall ensure that the following are observed in order to have standardized processes at national, regional and continental levels in the following areas namely -

5.1 Self-Regulation

- 5.1.1 Councils are encouraged to put in place structures for self-regulation which permits practitioners to licence and regulate the practice of

medical and dental practitioners or health care organisations in their Jurisdiction.

5.1.2 All Regulations should uphold the expected standards of training, professional development, quality control and continued professional development.

5.2 Direct Action by Government

The Councils in an affected area ~~is~~ are encouraged to liaise with their respective Governments for provision of the highest attainable services to patients and putting in place appropriate regulations.

5.3 Regulating Third Party Health Care Providers

5.3.1 The Councils in affected jurisdictions shall put in place structures to License or regulate the provisions of medical or dental services by International faith based organizations or Non-Governmental Organizations, as well as the private sector.

5.3.2 The Councils shall put in place structures to confirm registration or Licensing of organizations with other Jurisdictions.

6 ENSURING PATIENT SAFETY

It is agreed that Councils shall ensure that the following are observed in order to have standardized processes at national, regional and continental levels in the following areas namely -

6.1 Provision of services by Qualified practitioners

The councils shall ensure that;

- (a) health care providers working in their jurisdiction are qualified and duly licenced;
- (b) practitioners offer highest attainable services with the available resources, and

- (c) only institutions that meet the minimum requirements on human resource and that are appropriately equipped operate.

6.2 Disclosure of information

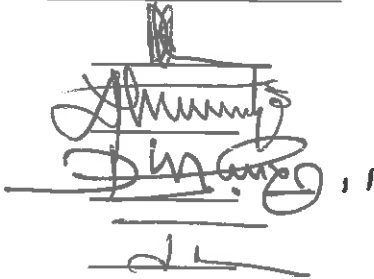
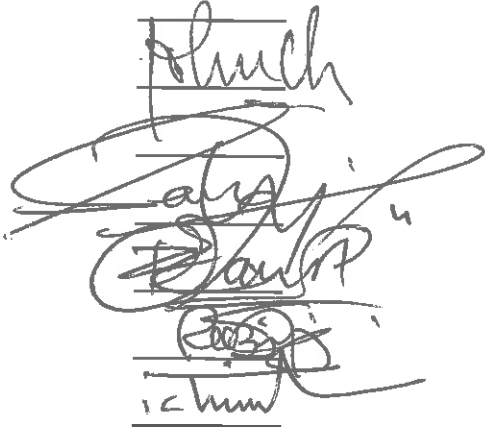

Patients shall have the right to choose the practitioner or institution from whom or where to obtain services and they shall also have the right to be informed appropriately.

7 ENABLING FRAMEWORK

All member countries that are signatories to this protocol agree to pursue processes of aligning or developing legislative and other policy frameworks to facilitate the implementation of the principles enshrined in this protocol.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT MAKOKOLA RETREAT, MANGOCHI, MALAWI, ON THIS DAY, FRIDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 2016

AMENDED AND SIGNED AT THE SPIER WINE ESTATE, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA ON THIS DAY, 25TH AUGUST 2017

Member Council	Signature
1. Botswana Health Professions Council	
2. Medical & Dental Council of Ghana	
3. Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board of Kenya	
4. Medical, Dental & Pharmacy Council of Lesotho	
5. Liberia Medical and Dental Council	
6. Medical Council of Malawi	
7. Medical & Dental Councils of Mauritius	
8. Medical & Dental Councils of Nigeria	
9. Health Professions Councils of Namibia	
10. Rwanda Medical & Dental Council	
11. Medical & Dental Council of Seychelles	
12. Medical & Dental Council of Sierra Leone	
13. Health Professions Council of South Africa	

14. **South Sudan Medical Council**
15. **Medical & Dental Council of Swaziland**
16. **Medical Council of Tanganyika**
17. **Medical & Dental Practitioners Council of Uganda**
18. **Health Professions Council of Zambia**
19. **Medical & Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe**

