



ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL
COUNCILS OF AFRICA
[AMCOA]

PROTOCOL
ON
ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL
ISSUES IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL
PRACTICE



**AMCOA PROTOCOL
ON
ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTICE**

WHEREAS dealing with Ethical and Professional Issues in Medical and Dental Practice in the member countries of AMCOA take various forms both in structure and content; and

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 the enhancement of ethical and professional practice in healthcare

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES TO THIS PROTOCOL DO HEREBY ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED HEREIN AS A FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTICE IN THE REGION:-

1. RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH PRACTITIONER
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It is agreed that–

- a) Medical and dental practice being an essential service should be remunerated adequately
- b) Practitioners are entitled to basic human rights such as freedom of association, religion, belief, expression, movement and trade.
- c) Practitioners' have a right in the decision making with regards to consent in the management of minors
- d) Practitioners should be involved in continuous improvement of their knowledge, skills attainment and attitude to ensure compliance with the code of ethics
- e) Practitioners should ensure that they obtain medical indemnity coverage

2. RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PATIENT

It is agreed that –

- a) Council/Boards should in collaboration with other **stakeholders** develop and update the Patient Rights Charter which should be disseminated in all health facilities using various modes of communication e.g.-
 - i. Local Language
 - ii. Graphical – Pictures and Audio visual; and
 - iii. Open Days
- b) Relevant information on all registered practitioners should be made accessible.
- ☐ c) The patient has the right to quality health care
- d) The patient has the responsibility to provide all relevant information so that the practitioner can make an informed diagnosis and formulate an appropriate treatment plan; thereafter the patient must comply with prescribed treatment and take care of their health
- e) The patient has the responsibility to respect the rights of other patients and health care providers

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

☐ It is agreed that Councils/Boards should –

- a) verify documents directly from relevant institutions
- b) exchange information between AMCOA member states
- c) advise government to respect the authorities of Councils/Boards when signing MOU's 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. DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES IN THE VIOLATION OF ETHICAL & PROFESSIONAL RULES

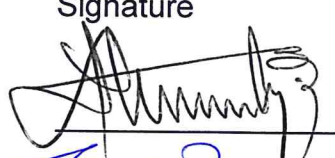

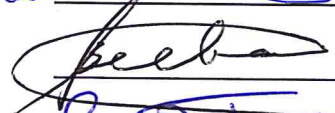

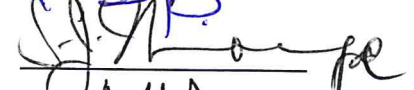
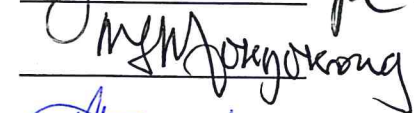
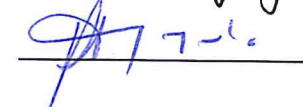
It is agreed that Councils/Boards should ensure that–

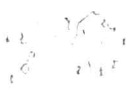
- a) all practitioners are conversant with the code of conduct through appropriate and timely training;
- b) there is a clear guideline for receiving, investigating and making recommendations on disciplinary matters
- c) there is an effective appeal mechanism dependent on the laws of the country and the structure of the council/Boards
- d) penalties are clearly defined and enforced to address the different offenses

5. 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 BY THE RESPECTIVE CHAIRPERSONS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCILS/BOARDS AT ROYAL SWAZI SPA, MBABANE, SWAZILAND ON THIS THE 02ND DAY OF NOVEMBER 2012.

Country	Name	Signature
1. Ghana	Dr. Eli Kwasi Atikpui	
2. Kenya	Prof George Magoha	
3. Mauritius	Dr Aziz-Ul-Haq Foondun	
4. Rwanda	Dr Emmanuel Rudakemwa	
5. Sierra Leone	Dr Samuel Thorpe	
6. South Africa	Prof Samuel Mokgokong	
7. Swaziland	Dr Samuel Magagula	



8. Uganda	Prof Joel Okullo	<u>Okullo</u>
9. Zambia	Ms Marian Munyinda	<u>Munyinda</u>
10. Lesotho	_____	_____
11. Malawi	_____	_____
12. Namibia	<u>AR Kanda</u>	<u>(Signature)</u>
13. Tanzania	_____	_____
14. Zimbabwe	_____	_____