

FITNESS TO PRACTISE

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Objectives

- Define Fitness to Practise (FtP) using Sierra Leone standards.
- Identify causes and consequences of impaired Fitness to Practise.
- Understand regulatory processes, sanctions and other interventions.
- Support safe, ethical, and professional conduct in practice.

Fitness to Practise

- Defined as the ability to practise safely, ethically, and effectively.
- Includes competence, conduct, communication, and health.
- Foundation for professional trust and public safety.
- Assessed by regulators, employers, and through revalidation.

The Medical and Dental Council of Sierra Leone (MDCSL)

- Established by: Medical Practitioners and Dental Surgeons Act of 1994; amended in 2008.
- Legal Mandate Related to Fitness to Practise:
 - Sections 9 & 11: Impairment of Fitness to Practise: according to these sections, “any medical practitioner or dental surgeon that is convicted of any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude”, is unfit to practise.

The Medical and Dental Council of Sierra Leone (MDCSL) contd.

- Section 24(1): Establishes the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee and its mandate to investigate Fitness to Practise concerns and recommend disciplinary measures to Council.
- Section 4(b): Empowers Council to create a Code of Ethics for Medical Practitioners and Dental Surgeons.
- Challenges: Political interference.
Newly qualified Medical Doctors/Dental Practitioners.

Medical And Dental Council of Sierra Leone – Article 96 of the Code of Ethics of the MDCSL

- Conditions that impair Fitness to Practise:
 - Dementia
 - Physical/mental health conditions
 - Addiction to alcohol or narcotics
- Any condition that endangers self, patients, or discredits profession.

Common Fitness to Practise Concerns

- Health conditions (e.g., unmanaged mental illness, addiction)
- Sexual or boundary misconduct
- Dishonesty or fraud
- Violence or abusive behavior
- Clinical performance issues

Thank You