

AMCOA

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL COUNCILS OF AFRICA



RESPONSIVE REGULATION
FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES
TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

28TH
**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

ACCRA, GHANA

23 – 27 AUGUST 2026

DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AND ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN AFRICA

ECOWAS Regulatory Reforms

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Major Highlights

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Nigeria

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- **Training Reform:** Revision of medical training curriculum and expansion of admission quotas.
- Indexing of medical and dental students.
- Centralised Internship placement, salaries and allowances.
- Upgrading Master Register (including Specialist Register)
- **Review of Medical Code** (Telemedicine, Social Media, Use of AI)
- **Digitalisation** of Records and Processes.
- **Online CPD** through WCEA
- Online initiation of Complaints
- Pursuit of Excellence, **Well-being and Self-Care**
- Strengthening Diaspora **Partnerships**

- **Curriculum Review**
- Student Indexing and Caps Policy.
- Monitoring of Training Institutions through random visitation.
- Primary Source verification through electronic portfolio.
- Introduction of Common Registration Licensing examination
- **Support for impaired practitioners.**
- Introduction of android-based tools for quality assessment of internships.
- **Digitalisation** of Registration and Licensing.
- **Online CPD** in collaboration with WCEA.
- Practitioner-Verification system (e.g. practitioner-specific stamps).
- Diaspora and International **Partnerships.**

The Gambia

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- Introduction of a **Digital** Registration System.
- Enforcement of CPD and recognition of **online CPD**
- Establishment of Inspectorate and Monitoring Unit.
- Establishment of Specialist Register.
- Strengthening of disciplinary procedures.
- Strengthening verification of credentials.

These reforms are about:

- Strengthening **regulatory governance**
- Improving the integrity and efficiency of its systems
- Promoting professional **competence and accountability**
- Ensuring that medical and dental practitioners in The Gambia meet the required standards for **safe and ethical practice**.

Liberia

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- Strengthening **monitoring** of internships.
- **Partnership** of government with hospitals to augment intern salaries and allowances.
- Additional **training** of Interns through regular weekend workshops with international partners.
- **CPDs** on Medical Ethics to reduce misconduct.

- **Digital** Workforce Regulation: Implementation of digital platforms to track, license, and verify more than 18,000 professional credentials in real time.
- Transparent **Recruitment**: Deployment of electronic recruitment portals managed alongside the Health Service Commission.
- Health **Financing** & Insurance: Formulation of the National Health Financing Strategy (2026–2030).
- Public Health **Surveillance**: Introduction of mandatory digital health declaration portals for international travelers arriving and departing through official entry points.
- Hospital Services **Transformation**: Rollout of the National Hospital Strategy focusing on decentralized governance, quality control, and infrastructure upgrades across regional and district medical facilities.

Burkina Faso

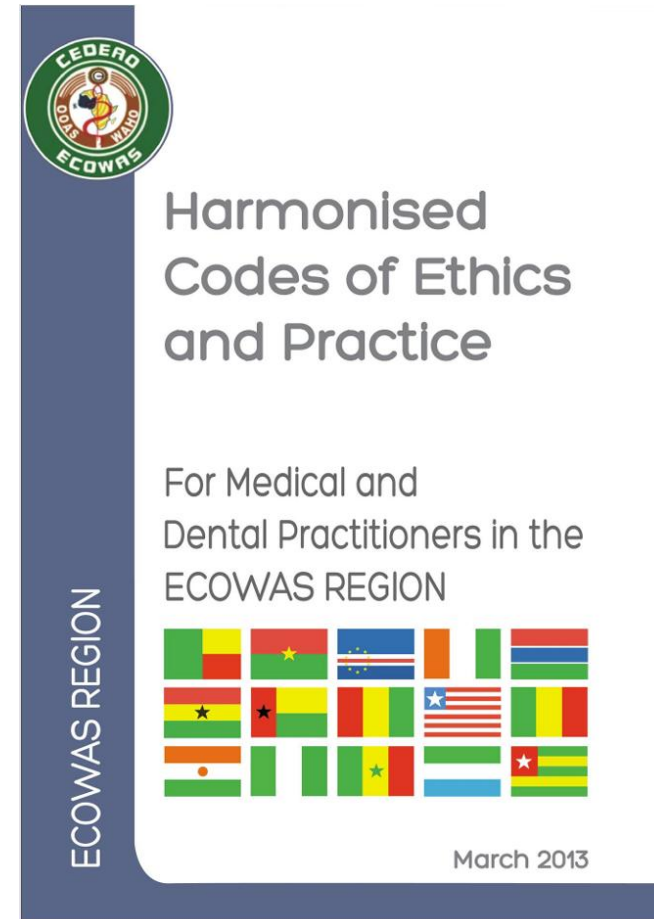
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- Revision of Laws and Codes in line with 5-Year Strategic Plan.
- Harmonisation of procedures manual.
- **Digitalisation** of Services.
- **CPD** and Establishing Medical Simulation Centre.
- **Emphasis on Entrepreneurship** and Physicians City.
- **Partnership** and Collaborations

WAHO (West African Health Organisation)

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- **Facilitating** harmonization of undergraduate and postgraduate curricula.
- Facilitating Codes of Ethics and Practice.



Summary of Reforms across ECOWAS

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- **Strengthening Education and Ethics**
 - Students (Curriculum Review + Indexing)
 - Practitioners (CPD)
- **Emphasis on Patient Safety**
 - Updating of Registers.
 - Transparent Recruitment.
 - Strengthening Disciplinary processes.
 - Internship monitoring and regular workshops.
 - Support for Impaired Doctors and Self-Care.
- **Leveraging on Technology**
 - Digitalisation
 - Strong, interactive websites
- **Building Strategic Partnerships to supporting/harmonizing operations**
 - Regional (among Jurisdictions, WAHO)
 - Continental (AMCOA, AU)
 - International (IAMRA and WCEA)

Challenges

- Jurisdictions moving at different speeds.
- Reform needs to be driven by national strategies and backed by policies such as Data Protection Policy, Communication and Digital Policy etc.
- Political Will (Vision of Supervising Minister)
 - National Sovereignty vs Integration (Lessons from East Africa)
 - Independence (Lessons from South Africa HSPCA)

Innovative Approaches

- Leveraging on Technology
- Leveraging on Regional Partnerships like WAHO. (Lessons from East Africa)
- Study Tours across jurisdictions to learn from each other (AMCOA as a facilitator).
- Doctors and Entrepreneurs and Regulators as Enablers.

Final Thoughts...

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- We need to continue with the things we do best: regular sharing of information and best practices.
- We need to expand the use of technology, with the safeguards of data and communication protection, by passing or domesticating the necessary laws.
- Adoption of AMCOA protocols that strengthen our operations.
- Continue to respect jurisdictional authority.
- In looking Globally, we must always remain Afrocentric.

UBUNTU (I am because we are).