



# The Practitioners Bulletin

KENYA MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND DENTISTS COUNCIL'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition



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## Council reengineers its processes through adoption of new standard operating procedures

**A**s part of its commitment to ensure quality healthcare, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council reviewed its internal registration and licensure procedures for health facilities and medical/dental practitioners. In a bid to ensure safety and verifiability of all its documents and processes, the Council has worked to incorporate the use of technology and modern controls as part of its new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The development of the SOPs culminated in their adoption during the 133<sup>rd</sup> Full Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

Some of the approved SOPs include ones touching on:

- Inspection of healthcare Facilities and Healthcare Training Institutions.
- Recategorization of Healthcare Facilities
- Appointment of Practitioners to the Panel of Experts
- Conduct of Council Examinations

- And Internship Placement process among others

The composing of the SOPs has been an ongoing consultative process spearheaded by the Council's Directorate of Standards in consultation with various key stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Health, Kenya Medical Association, Kenya Dental Association and Kenya Association of Private Hospitals among others.

During the review process, new facility application processing was halted and resumed on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. This was meant to ensure adequate structures and technological integration was in place in order to effectively accommodate the proposed changes in the Council processes. The sensitization of staff on the freshly adopted procedures was also conducted during this period.

For further clarification you can reach the Council on 0727666444 or [info@kmpdc.go.ke](mailto:info@kmpdc.go.ke).



File Photo: KMPDC Chair Dr. Eva Njenga at a past event. She has been a key driver in the efforts of revamping the Council's processes.

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## Council officers trained on inspection

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KMPDC CEO Dr. Daniel Yumbya making his remarks at the closing ceremony of the week long training exercise



Compliance Officers from the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council participated in an Inspection Training from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The training was directed by the Directorate of Compliance and Public Education of the Council as well as the Directorate of Standards and Quality Assurance and Regulation of the Ministry of Health. The training involved seasoned inspectors and trainers drawn from other health practice regulatory bodies such as the Nursing Council of Kenya, Pharmacies and Poisons Board, Clinical Officers Council and Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians & Technologists Board among others.

The training workshop was graced by KMPDC CEO Dr. Daniel Yumbya, EBS who presided over the opening and closing sessions of the week-long activity where he offered valuable insights from his extensive career in medical regulation.

During the training, the compliance officers were:

- Sensitized on the importance of practicing supportive regulation.
- Trained on the use of emerging technology in regulation.

- Updated on contemporary soft skills required to achieve goals in their daily work.
- Taken through the legal frame work and ethical practices involved in discharging of their duties.
- Taken through a refresher on the standards, guidelines and norms that are expected in the various levels of health facilities and medical cadres that they interact with.

In an ever changing and fast paced medical practice and regulation space, continuous training, development and updating of knowledge and skills of Council officers is an indispensable necessity in ensuring the maintenance of the highest standards of medical practice in Kenya for all Kenyans in a fair and accommodative manner without compromising on quality.

To this end the Council is committed to ensuring all its staff are equipped with necessary skills to enhance productivity, improve performance and ensure utmost accuracy at all times by holding such relevant regular training sessions.

## Council develops new facility inspection checklists

Five new health facility inspection checklists have been developed and seven others reviewed in line with the new health facility categorization rules. The categorization rules which were gazetted in December 2021 list a Community Health Unit run by a community health extension worker as the primary unit and National referral and Teaching Hospitals and specialized Hospitals at the apex.

New facility categories introduced in the rules are 3C (General medical centre), 4B (Specialist medical and dental clinic/Specialist home-based care or hospice/Specialist eye

clinic), 5B (Secondary referral Hospital) and 5C (Super specialized medical or dental Centre). Checklists for these new levels of facilities have been developed and are awaiting adoption by stakeholders.

According to Dr Margaret Mbugua, the Director, Standards at KMPDC, the new and reviewed checklist will enable the carrying out of inspections commensurate with the appropriate facility level. The new facility categorization is to the ultimate benefit of the general public who will now be able to identify where to get specific services.

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Health Unit</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Clinic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental Community Clinic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispensary</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eye Clinic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Based Care Services</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funeral Homes Stand alone</li> </ul>
3A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive Health Centre</li> </ul>
3B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Practice Clinic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Dental Practice Clinic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Based Care</li> </ul>
3C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Medical Centre</li> </ul>
4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary care Hospital</li> </ul>
4B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist medical and dental clinic</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist Home Based Care Services</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist Eye Clinic</li> </ul>
5A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive Secondary referral Hospital</li> </ul>
5B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital Level 5 (Secondary referral Hospital)</li> </ul>
5C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Super specialized medical or dental Centre</li> </ul>
6A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National referral and Teaching Hospitals and specialized Hospitals</li> </ul>
6B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialized Hospitals</li> </ul>

## Improvement in pre-internship and pre-registration exams

The number of foreign trained doctors who pass the Internship Qualifying and Pre-registration examinations increased by 60%. This is according to a report by the Training, Assessment, Registration and Human Resource Committee of the Council. Out of the 108 candidates who sat for the examinations, 63 passed while 45 failed. This was a 20% increase in pass rate, when compared with the previous examinations where the pass rate was at 40%.

The Council is mandated to carry out Internship Qualifying Examinations (IQE), Pre-registration Examinations and Peer reviews to foreign doctors aspiring to practice in Kenya to ensure quality standards. The improvement in performance has been greatly attributed to the new examinations provisions by the Council which requires that an aspiring IQE and Pre-registration exam candidate undergo a mandatory four months attachment prior to the examination. This requirement is to allow the foreign trained doctor familiarize with the Kenyan healthcare system. This attachment should be undertaken at a facility in the country approved by the Council. Upon satisfactory completion of the attachment, the candidates are cleared

and listed to undertake the examinations. They are then taken through a thorough examinations procedure which encompasses of both written examinations and clinicals.

Both the successful and unsuccessful candidates are notified through a text message to access results available on the KMPDC Result Management System. Candidates who fail the examinations in their first attempt are normally presented with two (2) more chances to re-sit the examinations. The candidate can reapply to be considered for examination with the next cohort. All the candidates who make the cut are allowed to proceed with internships and registration accordingly.

### Council Exams

KMPDC offers several forms of assessment for foreign trained practitioners who would like to practice in Kenya.

For general practitioners and medical officer students there are the options of taking Internship Qualifying Examinations or Pre-Registration Examinations depending on the internship status of the applicant.

For specialist practitioners with valid registration in other jurisdiction, peer review evaluations are conducted.



## More doctors qualify and are recognized as specialists and sub-specialists

One hundred and fifteen 115 more doctors have been recognized as specialists bringing the total number of local specialists to 3,577. An additional 13 more have been recognized as sub specialists. The total number of local sub-specialist doctors stands at 425 out of the 15,703 registered local medical and dental practitioners in the country as of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Out of the 26 medical specialties and 15 dental specialties approved by KMPDC, stems the sub specialties. Specialist recognition is usually awarded to medical/ dental practitioners who have acquired Masters of Medicine in various disciplines/specialties that are listed in the list of approved specialties and subspecialties. Specialist recognition is awarded to only those who have trained for a minimum of three (3) years followed by two (2) years supervised practice under a senior specialist from the same discipline.

For a medical or dental practitioner to qualify as a specialist, he/she must be a holder of a post graduate qualification equivalent to

masters' degree in medicine or dental surgery awarded after a period of training recognized by the Council. They must also have at least 2 years experience after obtaining the post graduate qualification under the supervision of a recognized specialist.

Sub specialist recognition requires a medical or dental practitioner to possess a basic specialist qualification in his or her discipline, have at least six months training and have least one-year experience under the supervision of a recognized sub specialist.

The foreign trained specialists who desire to practice in Kenya must undergo a peer review after which recommendations are done. A peer review is a one-on-one interview of the specialist by experts in the field. A successful candidate is then allowed to submit their applications for temporary registration in Kenya.

The increased registration of qualified specialist and subspecialists is a major milestone towards achieving world class Universal Healthcare Coverage in Kenya.

## Number of outstanding cases reduced by the discipline and ethics committee

Forty-nine disciplinary cases were outstanding at the Council in the beginning of the fourth quarter (April- June 2022). At the end of the quarter, only 10 cases are pending awaiting hearing. This is a significant reduction in outstanding cases compared to the same period in the previous financial year. While this is a notable improvement, The Council still faces a number of challenges that hinder the timely & efficient execution of hearings.

Inadequate documentation by complainants is one of the key challenges hindering the swiftness of the legal process. According to Eunice Muriithi Deputy Director Disciplinary and Ethics Committee Department a significant majority of complainants are not conversant with the process of lodging a complaint with the Council. Incomplete information from them and inaccurate or misleading information from respondents are the leading causes of such delays. The Council encourages all complainants to access all necessary resources on its website

[www.kmpdc.go.ke](http://www.kmpdc.go.ke)

Another key challenge was the COVID-19 pandemic which heavily affected the normal operations of all concerned departments at the Council leading to a backlog. This forced a number of cases to be postponed from 2020 to 2021 which has affected the dispensation of cases to date.

Other challenges that prolong the process are untimely submission of feedback from some clients, observance of ethical handling of personal information and the bureaucratic process and policies involved when dealing with medical institutions.

Various recommendations have been undertaken to address these challenges including strict adherence of hearing timelines, appointment of relevant parties to oversee various steps in the process among others. The Council will continuously engage stakeholders to fast track the hearing process to reach amicable closure of the cases.

## Council kicks off curriculum review in-line with the health workers conference



KMPDC Council Member Prof. Stephen Ogendo making his remarks during the stakeholders workshop involving Deans and Vice Chancellors of Medical/Dental Schools.

The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Sen. Mutahi Kagwe and the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Prof George Magoha hosted the Conference on Harmonization of Curriculum and Training of Health Professionals in February 2022. Since then, the Council has been guiding the implementation of one of the key recommendations of the conference which aims to review the core curriculum and the training curriculum for medical doctors to better equip them for contemporary professional demands.

Since the close of the inaugural conference, the Council has managed to drive several steps towards actualizing the core curricula review including the incorporation of the Deans and Vice Chancellors of medical and dental training schools into an Intersectoral Committee to oversee the conference outcomes implementation. Furthermore, the Council organized an intensive three-day workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to initiate the review of the curricula. The workshop drew participation from key stakeholders including university deans from both medical and dental training schools, curricular experts and the Commission for University Education. In all, eleven universities with medical and dental schools were represented.

Following the workshop several

recommendations were made that were deemed essential in supplementing the ongoing review and they included:

- Review of the KMPDC Continuous Professional Development Guidelines, to ensure continued learning of identified key competency areas
- Review of the Internship Training Guidelines to incorporate the revised core Curricular changes
- Development of postgraduate training Core curricula for both Master of Medicine programmes and EAC colleges.

The Core curriculum review is oriented towards producing an outcome-based approach in the delivery of MBChB and BDS programs as opposed to an objective-based system that initially anchored the curricula.



A team led by KMPDC Chair Dr. Eva Njenga pose for a group photo with a section of the instructors at the onset of the National Security Training.

### KMPDC Council Members and management staff trained on health security National Security awareness in medical practice

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council partnered with the National Defence University, Kenya's International Peace Support Center College to train Council members and on National Security awareness in medical practice.

The training was geared towards strengthening the Council's ability to assess, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and medical related emergencies. This training was essential as KMPDC is one of the core advisors to the Ministry of Health on mitigation of medical emergencies.

## Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital approved as an ECSACOP training site

The Council conducted inspections of the East Central Southern Africa College of Physicians (ECSACOP) Training Sites in the country. This is part of the Council's monitoring and evaluation framework that aims to advance education, training standards, research and practice in internal medicine.

Consequently, Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital was approved to be an ECSACOP training site. Currently, Kenya has a total of four (4) ECSACOP training centers. These are; Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Coast County Referral Hospital, Mater Misericordiae Hospital and Kenyatta Teaching Referral and Research Hospital.

ECSACOP is a regional college that seeks to alleviate manpower shortages of physicians in East, Central and Southern Africa. The program aims at improving access to well-trained physicians across the region by establishing

a network of dedicated training centers and implementing an internationally recognized post graduate medical qualification. It also aims at harmonizing internal medicine training across the region. Other Countries that have adopted the program are Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ECSACOP offers a 4-year postgraduate program in Internal Medicine that is recognised by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentist Council. The enrolled trainees participate in supervised instruction and examinations in the approved teaching hospitals, after which they earn the qualification of Fellow of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians FCP (ECSA). To be eligible for this program, a practitioner must have full registration with the medical council of the country in which the candidate is working in.

## Renewing your license has never been easier

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council publishes the names of all registered and licensed practitioners and facilities by the 31<sup>st</sup> March of every year. There are 15,630 registered local doctors out of who 10,620 were licensed as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

There are also 1,259 registered foreign doctors, out of who 327 were licensed as at the same period. All licenses including those of facilities expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year.

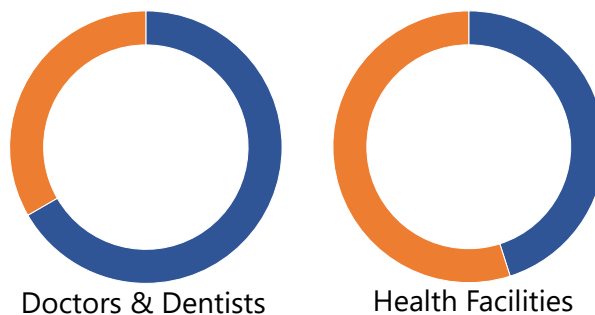
The renewal process has been simplified and is done online through our online service portal [osp.kmpdc.go.ke](http://osp.kmpdc.go.ke). A practitioner requires to obtain fifty (50) CPD Points, have secured an indemnity cover and be in good standing to be eligible for renewal of a practicing license.

The publishing of names of complaint practitioners and facilities is in line with Section 9 and 10 of CAP 253 Laws of Kenya which mandates the Council to register and maintain a record of all practitioners in the country. This is inclusive of the records of retired and deceased practitioners. Failure to adhere to the licensure

requirement attracts a 50% fine.

The Council encourages all medical/dental practitioners, community oral health officers (COHO's) and facilities to comply with the law avoid any legal implications.

LICENSURE STATUS FOR FACILITIES AND PRACTITIONERS



10,620 of the registered practitioners are currently licensed representing 68% compliance.

While only 6,952 of registered facilities representing 45 % of registered facilities are licenced.

Unlicensed

Licensed

