

**MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE
(MDPCZ)**



POLICY ON CHANGE OF A PRACTITIONER IN CHARGE OF A HEALTH INSTITUTION

BACKGROUND

One of the Council's objectives is to ensure quality health care practise and enforcing high standard professional and ethical practice. This is achieved by having Policies in place that continue to build a system of health care delivery that ensures optimal health care outcomes. The importance of the continued presence of the Practitioner in Charge in a health institution cannot be underestimated. This individual is accountable to the value chain process which include medical processes, monitoring and prevention of disease, diagnosis, intervention, ongoing management and regulatory process. The absence of such a critical leader who is accountable for clinical governance at any given time due to abrupt resignations constitutes an act of improper conduct.

It is against this background that Council has decided to evolve a Policy that would require every health institution to have an accountable personnel (Practitioner In Charge registered by the Council) whose professional and ethical responsibility is to ensure good clinical governance.

Purpose Of The Policy

To ensure that at any given time a registered health institution has in place a registered Practitioner In Charge of the health institution responsible for professional and ethical issues.

Policy

- A registered health institution shall have a registered practitioner (residing in the country) in charge of the health institution and responsible for the clinical governance of the institution.
- The registered Practitioner In Charge of a health institution shall give a written notice period of three calendar months to the Board of Directors of his/her intention to resign/retire from the post of a Practitioner in Charge of the registered institution.
- The written notice should be copied to Council and the Health Professions Authority.
- On receipt of a letter of resignation by a Practitioner, the Chairman of the Board shall immediately notify Council within a period of two weeks following receipt of such a resignation letter.
- The institution shall be allowed to engage a locum for a period of three months whilst in the process of employment of a substantive practitioner in charge.

- An application for a replacement shall be submitted to the MDPCZ during the three month period.
- The application should be accompanied by:-
 - A fully completed application form
 - Copy of valid Practising Certificate
 - Up to date Curriculum Vitae

The Council will immediately process the application on its own merit and upon approval he/she will attend an interview before the Council on his/her role as Practitioner In Charge. If it is a hospital/emergency centre, the Health Professions Authority (HPA)/MDPCZ may conduct an inspection at any given time. HPA will be advised accordingly.

Violation of this Policy shall be deemed to be an act of unethical conduct on the part of the registered practitioner previously in Charge of the Institution and action might be taken in terms of Section 112 of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19).

MAY 2012.
Amended May 2015


16/6/15