



MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL

E-LEARNING POLICY

DEFINITION OF TERMS

In this Policy:

“Council” means the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe

“Act” means the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19)

“e-learning” or e-learning platform or online learning or virtual learning “ means utilising electronic digital technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional face to face classroom,”

“theoretical knowledge” means learning anything without adopting practical approach

“skills transfer” means the method in which students are taught how to perform a new task or skill.

“face to face learning” means an instructional method where course content and learning material is taught in person to a group of students or to a student..

“simulation skills transfer” means: acquisition of clinical skills through practice on an artificial representation of a real process .

“video conference skills transfer” means a video/audio system that provides distance education for two or more people by colleges or universities in different locations that enables learning and training and delivery of skills transfer.

“hybrid qualification” means a qualification obtained by combining 70% online learning and 30% in-person or face to face learning.

BACKGROUND

The advances in digital technology and the disease pandemics occurrences have posed challenges on the training and practice of medicine. This has resulted in training institutions adopting various e-learning platforms for both undergraduate and post graduate training programmes as well as e-learning platforms for continuing medical education, improvement of own knowledge and skills. Council therefore **RESOLVED** that ELC should look into how e-learning could be appropriately applied in medical training institutions of higher learning.

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The Purpose of this Policy is to define the parameters under which E- learning qualifications can be considered and approved by Council for purpose of registration either as primary or postgraduate qualifications to ensure quality care to the public.

Promoting the health of the population of Zimbabwe and guiding the medical and dental profession.

2. E- LEARNING POLICY

- 2.1 ELC shall assess the content of every new qualification obtained thorough e-learning
- 2.2 Every e-learning qualification should have a minimum of 30% face to face learning and a maximum of 70% online learning based on the time of the Minimum Body of Knowledge (MBKs). Practical knowledge should be 100% face to face
- 2.3 Online qualifications:
 - i) Online qualifications obtained 100% online will not be recognized by the Council both primary degree or post graduate qualification
 - ii) Learning of medicine cannot be detached from the practical aspect
- 2.4 Skills transfer during the course of medical training shall be conducted face to face.
- 2.4 Skills transfer by simulation and video conferencing will be considered on own merit.
- 2.6 Lecturers who are medical practitioners and specialists who give online teaching should be registered with the Council and those who are not medical practitioners and specialists should be registered with the relevant regulatory body of their profession
- 2.7 Online local Lecturers or those beyond the boarder should be affiliated to a recognized medical training institutions/university.
- 2.8 Online Lecturers should have recognized credentials that qualify them to be affiliated to the Local universities/colleges.

July 2022

Approved by Council 20 October 2022

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