

Medical and Dental Practitioner's Council of Zimbabwe (MDPCZ)
Research and Development Committee

Guidelines for the Conduct of Research Activities for Professional Associations

@MDPCZ 2022

Introduction

The National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) recognizes that provision of quality health to citizens is key to achieving the national vision 2030. In addition, Zimbabwe's new education 5.0 policy requires that the whole of the education sector and professional practitioners institutionalizes research during the provision of goods and services. The practice of evidence based medicine (EBM) is highly recommended to ensure that health services provision are contextual in order to benefit the patients more. These guidelines aim to define what constitute health research and provide guidance to professional associations on how to institutionalize research in the practice of medicine in Zimbabwe.

Definition of Research in Medical Practice

- Case series / case reports which refer to the description of an interesting health condition that requires innovative procedure or treatment method or is rare. The description may lead to publication in peer reviewed journal or professional association specific bulletin
- Investigation of an unusual occurrence of a health event (disease outbreak that maybe localized/generalized). An outbreak is defined as an unexpectedly high cases of a specific health event within a specified time period.
- Descriptive studies
- Clinical audits in individual, group practices or hospital setting are important
- Literature review on a discipline specific topical subject which guides change in treatment or professional practice
- Presenting a scientific paper at the professional association annual congress and association specific annual general meeting (AGM) or any other professional meeting
- Any other activity that results in generation of new knowledge or new way of managing health events or creates awareness among professionals or promotes change in policy

Implementation

- Appoint a research committee whose roles shall include as a minimum:
 - Be the focal point on all issues pertaining to research within the association
 - Periodically appoint members to sit in the Research and Development Committee in MDPCZ
 - Be the direct respondent on any matters of research referred to the association
 - May set up an association specific journal or publish in the CAJM or come up with an association specific bulletin.
 - Periodically publish association specific research priority areas, available research grants
 - Come up with a schedule of research training
 - Publish an inventory of ongoing research activities
 - Identify and engage partners to support association research activities
 - Organize association specific research days annually
- Develop, in partnership with MDPCZ and other partners, research training activities
- Promote interaction with industry, government and other professional association to promote evidence based health interventions, development of new health products and health policy formulation

- Develop collaboration with private and public institutions to encourage research activities that are relevant to the discipline and the health sector
 - Create a strong link with Ministry of Health and Child Care to ensure research evidence influence policy at national level
- Establishment of home-grown standard evidence-based guidelines binding for use by any clinician
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Mentorship Model

Each association shall appoint mentors as part of the association executive committee. A mentor shall be defined as:

- An experienced researcher with a minimum of 3 peer reviewed published papers
- Willing to be a mentor
- A mentor maybe appointed for a minimum of 3 years to allow continuity



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