
Media Statement

VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR FOREIGN QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

07 July 2016
For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) will require practitioners who obtained their basic medical qualification outside of South Africa to use ECFMG's Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPICSM) to have their medical credentials verified. The utilisation of EPIC will replace the current Educational International Credentials Services (EICS) paper application process. EPIC's web-based process will provide the HPCSA with the same primary-source verification of medical credentials that it has been receiving through EICS, while also offering practitioners an advantage not available through EICS.

As of 1 August 2016, new applicants who obtained their basic medical qualification outside of South Africa will be required to create an EPIC account and upload their credentials for verification. Until that time, applicants are required to continue to submit their credentials for verification through EICS using the current process. Applicants who have submitted their credentials for primary-source verification through EICS prior, may continue through the EICS process until such time their credentials are verified or attempts to have them verified have been exhausted.

The HPCSA and ECFMG are pleased to be working together in making this transition of using EPIC for primary-source verification of medical credentials. It is an innovative, on-line service that practitioners can use throughout their careers. Through EPIC, practitioners can build a digital career portfolio of the primary-source verified credentials related to their medical education, training, and registration/license. They can use EPIC to request reports to verify the authenticity of their credentials to be provided to any organisation in the world, including medical regulatory authorities and potential employers, such as hospitals and academic institutions. For more information on EPIC, visit www.ecfmgepic.org.

All foreign qualified practitioners must ensure that the HPCSA has received their full compliant verifications before submitting their applications for registration. All applications received without the

full compliant verification via the Epic Portal will be considered non-compliant and returned to the applicant.

Ends

About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974 and is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

The Council is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects pertaining to education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

In order to safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registerable with Council.

Issued by:

Daphney Chuma
Senior Manager: Public Relations and Service Delivery
Health Professions Council of South Africa
Tel: 012 338 9481
Email: daphneyc@hpcsa.co.za

For more information please contact:
Marthina Venter
Manager: Document management
Health Professions Council of South Africa
Tel: 012 338 9312
Email: marthinav@hpcsa.co.za