VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR FOREIGN QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) has partnered with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) to enhance the process through which verification of medical credentials of international practitioners applying for registration to practice medicine in South Africa. The HPCSA will require practitioners who obtained their basic medical qualification outside of South Africa to use ECFMG's Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC^{SM}) to have their medical credentials verified. Currently, HPCSA uses ECFMG's International Credentials Services (EICS) for this purpose. EPIC's web-based process will provide us with the same rigorous 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 [establish an EPIC account](), if they do not have one already. Practitioners will be required to upload their credentials to EPIC 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 either their credentials are verified or attempts to have them verified have been exhausted.

The HPCSA and ECFMG are pleased to make this transition of using EPIC for primary-source verification of medical credentials. EPIC is an innovative, on-line service that practitioners can use throughout their careers. Through EPIC, practitioners will be able to build a digital career portfolio of the primary-source verified credentials related to their medical education, training, and registration/license. They can then use EPIC to request reports verifying the authenticity of their credentials 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]().