

## **VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF FOREIGN MEDICAL QUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS**

The HPCSA has partnered with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) to enhance the process through which HPCSA obtains verification of medical credentials of international physicians applying for registration to practice medicine in South Africa. Starting August 1, 2016, HPCSA will require physicians who obtained their basic medical qualification outside of South Africa to use ECFMG's Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC<sup>SM</sup>) 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 HPCSA with the same rigorous primary-source verification of medical credentials that it has been receiving through EICS, while also offering physicians advantages not available through EICS.

Starting on August 1, 2016, new applicants to HPCSA who obtained their basic medical qualification outside of South Africa will be required to [establish an EPIC account](#), if they do not already have one, and 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 to August 1, 2016, may continue through the EICS process until either their credentials are verified or attempts to have their credentials verified have been exhausted.

HPCSA and ECFMG are pleased to make this transition to using EPIC for primary-source verification of medical credentials. EPIC is an innovative, on-line service that physicians can use throughout their careers. Through EPIC, physicians can build a digital career portfolio of the primary-source verified credentials related to their medical education, training, and registration/licensure. They can then use EPIC to request that reports verifying the authenticity of their credentials be provided to any organization 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](http://www.ecfmgepic.org).