



## Press Release

### **Medical Council of Malawi warns against unqualified practitioners conducting ultrasonography services**

The Medical Practitioners and Dentists (MPD) Act of 1987 empowers the Medical Council of Malawi (MCM) to regulate the medical, dental, and allied health professions.

The MCM wishes to inform the general public and all healthcare providers that ultrasonography is a regulated diagnostic procedure which must only be performed by qualified, formally trained, and licensed practitioners registered with the MCM to offer such services.

Ultrasonography requires specialized training, technical proficiency, and clinical understanding to ensure accurate diagnosis and patient safety. In Malawi, the MCM regulates all practitioners authorized to conduct ultrasonography services, including Ultrasonographers, Radiographers (trained in ultrasonography), and Radiologists all of whom undergo extensive education and supervised clinical training before being licensed to practice.

However, the Council has observed with concern an increasing trend of unqualified individuals and unregulated cadres, some with as little as one week of informal training, offering ultrasonography services in both public and private facilities. This practice is unprofessional, unethical, and dangerous, posing a serious threat to patient safety and the quality of healthcare delivery in Malawi.

Unqualified practitioners often lack the competence to conduct or interpret ultrasound findings accurately. Their actions can result in misdiagnosis, delayed or inappropriate treatment, and preventable harm to patients. The Council emphasizes that allowing untrained individuals to perform ultrasonography undermines professional standards and endangers lives.

For basic diagnostic or confirmatory scans, medical practitioners and trained clinicians may perform limited ultrasonography to support diagnoses within their defined scope of practice. However, when a comprehensive or specialized ultrasonography examination is required, patients must be referred to practitioners who are formally trained and registered with the MCM for ultrasonography. Any ultrasonography performed by unqualified individuals should be challenged and verified to prevent potential harm.

The MCM therefore calls upon all healthcare facilities, both public and private, to ensure that ultrasonography services are provided only by competent, and licensed professionals. The Council will continue to monitor compliance and take regulatory action against individuals or facilities found violating this requirement, especially where such actions result in harm to the public.

Patient safety remains paramount. The Council urges members of the public to seek ultrasonography services only from recognized healthcare facilities with duly licensed practitioners.



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