



MCM Rolls Out First Electronic Information System Workshop for Continuing Professional Development

The Medical Council of Malawi (MCM) is finalising its first-ever electronic information system, the Medical Council of Malawi Information System (MCMIS) a milestone development that marks the Council's transition from manual, paper-based operations to a modern, digital platform.

Once fully implemented, MCMIS will enable practitioners and the public to access the Council's services quickly and seamlessly. The development of the system, which began two years ago, has now reached its final stages and is expected to be rolled out fully by April 2026. Several modules have been completed, with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module among the first to go live.

As part of the CPD module implementation, AMREF Health Africa, one of the key partners, organized a capacity-building workshop for CPD coordinators, District Medical Officers (DMOs) and District Environmental Health Officers (DEHO) from Chikwawa, Mangochi, Salima and Karonga districts, and various professional associations. The workshop aimed to familiarize participants with the MCMIS CPD module and provide a hands-on demonstration of how the system will work, the roles of practitioners, CPD coordinators and MCM. This marks the first phase of user engagement with the system's registrants as a form of pilot implementation.

Before reaching this stage, the CPD module underwent a comprehensive development process that included the drafting of CPD regulations, guidelines, and checklists, their validation, and piloting in the four districts supported by AMREF. The MCM extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Health, AMREF Health Africa, SEED Global Health, and the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust for their technical and financial support during the development, validation, piloting, and facilitation of this workshop.

The workshop brought together representatives from the four pilot districts and six professional associations: the Malawi Environmental Health Association (MEHA), Radiography Association of Malawi (RAM), Physicians Assistants Union of Malawi (PAUM), National Paramedical Private Practitioners Association of Malawi (NAPPPAM), Malawi Orthopaedics Association (MOA), and the Society of Medical Doctors (SMD).

Participants shared experiences on the implementation of CPD, identifying both challenges and opportunities. Among the key concerns raised were low practitioner participation, limited enforcement of CPD compliance, and absence of penalties for non-compliant practitioners. Other challenges faced in districts included inadequate budgets to support CPD activities, and network connectivity issues, which often hinder online participation.

In his presentation, MCM Registrar and CEO Dr. Davie Zolowere acknowledged the challenges raised but assured participants that most of them have been addressed in the new CPD regulations, which now include clear penalties for non-compliance and improved enforcement mechanisms.

The MCMIS initiative represents progress in the Council's drive toward digital transformation and demonstrates dedication to promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability in Malawi's health sector.