



Medical Council Malta

Date: 11th November 2025

Circular 03/2025

To All Medical Professionals

Subject: **Obligation to Maintain High Professional Standards**

The issuance of this circular aims to raise professional standards across the medical community and to safeguard patient safety by ensuring that all procedures are performed competently and responsibly. It tackles the undertaking of clinical procedures within certain areas of expertise. All medical practitioners are encouraged to follow these guidelines to ensure the highest standards of patient care and safety:

Before performing any clinical procedure, every medical practitioner must have completed adequate and structured training specific to that procedure. Hence the vital importance of CPD, both for patient safety and for the applicable indemnity cover. This training should be comprehensive, covering both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, and must be documented and certified appropriately.

Adhering to proper training protocols is not only a moral responsibility but also a legal obligation. The Medical Council feels duty bound to remind all doctors of these requirements as adverse patient outcomes may expose the practitioner to serious medico-legal consequences.

Each professional is expected to operate strictly within their field of expertise. Specific mention is made to Article 29 (1) of the Health Care Professions Act (Cap 464) in which it is stated that:

“No person shall practise as, or hold out himself to be, a specialist unless his name is entered in the respective register kept for the registration of specialists by the relevant Council”.

It is essential to possess the competence to manage any unintended consequences or complications that may arise during or after the procedure. In addition, as per addendum 2 of the “Ethics and Regulations of the Medical and Dental Professions”:

“The Medical Council acknowledges that specialists may be required to work in an area of another speciality provided that they have proven competence in that sphere”.

Should a situation exceed your expertise, timely referral or consultation with a qualified specialist is appropriate.

Certain procedures require supervised practice under the guidance of an experienced mentor before a medical practitioner may perform them independently. This step is crucial to ensure skill acquisition, confidence, and patient safety. Caution is to be exercised with procedures not undertaken frequently.

Address

SLH-OPD, Level 1
St. Luke`s Square
G`Mangia. PTA 1010. Malta.

Contact

TEL: 21 255 540
W: <https://health.gov.mt>
E: medicalcouncil@gov.mt



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All treatments and interventions must be grounded in the latest evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards. This approach guarantees that patient care is effective, safe, and aligned with current best practices.

Your commitment to continuous learning and ethical practice is vital for maintaining the trust placed in us by our patients and the wider community.

Arthur Camilleri
Registrar

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