



## **PHARMACISTS COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE**

### **POLICY ON PRACTICE OF SHORT TERM VOLUNTARY WORK IN ZIMBABWE**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe is a statutory body established in terms of Section 45 of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19). Council regulates the practice of Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians, Hearing Aid Specialists and Orthoptists in Zimbabwe. The functions and powers of Council which are provided for in Section 46 (1) of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) includes assistance in the promotion of the health of the population of Zimbabwe through promotion of research and education, registration and monitoring of practitioners under its jurisdiction. Council notes that there are volunteers who wish to assist Zimbabwe in its quest to promote the health of its populace. These volunteers need to be registered to practice in Zimbabwe in accordance to the provisions of the Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) Depending on the period and nature of the voluntary work, Council may exempt volunteers from conventionally registering with Council upon provision of requisite documentation.

#### **RATIONALE BEHIND THE POLICY**

This policy is meant to ensure that valuable practice time on the part of volunteers is not lost while the practitioners seek to comply with conventional registration requirements meant for a practitioner who intends to permanently be on Council registers.

#### **POLICY**

##### **THE VOLUNTEER**

For the purposes of this policy, a short term visit shall be defined as 'A visit by a professional for voluntary work for a period that does not exceed three months'. A volunteer shall be qualified to take part in voluntary work in any of the following practice areas;

- a) Research
- b) Community practice
- c) Hospital practice
- d) Industrial practice
- e) Regulatory practice
- f) Academic practice

A practitioner who so wishes to engage in voluntary work must be in possession of a letter of authority issued by Council thirty days before the commencement of the voluntary work. The letter of authority shall bear the following information;

- a) Name of practitioner
- b) Qualifications of practitioner
- c) Registration status of practitioner in country of origin
- d) Practitioners' home address
- e) Name and address of host in Zimbabwe
- f) Period of voluntary work in Zimbabwe

The letter of authority shall be issued by the Registrar to the volunteer upon complying with the following conditions;

- a) Submission of a detailed curriculum vitae
- b) Submission of certified copies of national identification certificate, academic and professional certificates
- c) Submission of a Certificate of Good Standing or its equivalent issued by the registering authority in the country of origin
- d) Submission of a letter from the host in Zimbabwe acknowledging that the volunteer would be under their responsibility during the period of practice in Zimbabwe
- e) Declaration from the host/coordinator that the volunteer shall abide by the rules and regulations governing the practitioner's practice in Zimbabwe
- f) Proof of having passed the Forensic Pharmacy examination administered by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe in respect of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

### **THE HOST/ COORDINATOR**

For the purposes of this policy, the host/coordinator shall be a person of authority in the hosting organisation who shall provide the following information to Council for the purposes of executing its regulatory mandate;

- a) A schedule of the voluntary work
- b) Duration of the voluntary work
- c) List of practitioners who shall be involved in the voluntary work
- d) a monthly report on the activities of the volunteers
- e) an evaluation report of the voluntary work at the end of the voluntary programme
- f) all reports and relevant documents are submitted to the Council Registrar without delay

The host/coordinator shall ensure that no volunteer shall perform work outside the approved period and premises and or area. The host shall also ensure that the volunteer abides by other laws and regulations which govern the contact of foreign persons in Zimbabwe

Council shall ensure that all applications for voluntary work are processed timely for the benefit of the Zimbabwean population.