



EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

3624 Market Street
Philadelphia PA 19104-2685 USA
215-386-5900 | 215-966-3124 Fax
www.ecfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2016

Contact: Liz Ingraham

(215) 823-2108

eingraham@ecfm.org

Health Professions Council of South Africa Joins ECFMG's EPIC

Partnership Enhances Process for Evaluating the Medical Credentials of South Africa's International Medical Graduates

PHILADELPHIA, UNITED STATES—The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG[®]) are pleased to announce their collaboration to incorporate ECFMG's Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPICSM) into the process for assessing the medical credentials of South Africa's international medical graduates (IMGs), those physicians who obtained their basic medical qualification outside of South Africa. In pursuit of its mission of quality and equitable health care for all, HPCSA regulates medicine and other health professions in South Africa, including education, training, registration, professional conduct, and ethical behavior. Registration with HPCSA is a requirement for all physicians practicing medicine in South Africa. Effective August 1, HPCSA requires IMGs applying for registration to have their medical credentials primary-source verified through EPIC.

Before August 1, 2016, HPCSA obtained primary-source verification of IMG credentials through ECFMG's International Credentials Services (EICS). EPIC provides HPCSA with the same rigorous primary-source verification that ECFMG delivers through EICS, and additional benefits not available through EICS. These include a secure, web-based platform for authenticating the credentials of its applicants, along with paperless processing and recordkeeping. For IMGs, EPIC offers a service that they can use throughout their careers to build a digital portfolio of verified credentials related to their medical education, training, and registration/licensure. Using EPIC, IMGs can request reports demonstrating the authenticity of their credentials for organizations worldwide, including regulatory authorities and potential employers, such as hospitals and academic institutions. EPIC also enables IMGs to submit their credentials for verification electronically, eliminating postal costs and potential transit delays, as well as reducing processing times.

(more)

About EPIC

EPIC offers primary-source verification of medical credentials to organizations and physicians worldwide. In verifying the authenticity of physician credentials related to medical education, training, and registration/licensure, EPIC employs the same world-class, primary-source verification process used by ECFMG to verify credentials for other ECFMG services, including ECFMG Certification, the standard for international physicians entering the U.S. health care system. For organizations that are responsible for evaluating physician qualifications, EPIC provides no-cost access to primary-source verification—verifying the authenticity of a credential directly with the issuing institution—for the purpose of evaluating their applicants’ credentials. For the world’s physicians, EPIC is an innovative way to build a digital career portfolio of the credentials related to their medical education, training, and registration/licensure—a portfolio that can grow with their careers. For more information, visit www.ecfmgepic.org.

About ECFMG

Established in 1956, ECFMG is a private, nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with more than 800 full- and part-time employees.

ECFMG is a world leader in promoting quality health care—serving physicians, members of the medical education and regulatory communities, health care consumers, and those researching issues in medical education and health workforce planning. ECFMG’s program of certification evaluates whether international medical graduates are ready to enter U.S. programs of graduate medical education, where they provide supervised patient care. ECFMG offers a variety of other programs for the world’s physicians and the entities worldwide that educate, train, register/license, and employ them.

ECFMG’s organizational members are the American Board of Medical Specialties, American Medical Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association for Hospital Medical Education, Federation of State Medical Boards, and the National Medical Association.

For more information, visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org.

###