



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Health
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Bermuda Medical Council

January 12, 2023

Dear Colleagues

RE: Clarity on BMC Registration Categories

The Bermuda Medical Council (BMC) continues to clarify our position on the registration and regulation of physicians involved in 'telemedicine' services in Bermuda. As in other jurisdictions, out of necessity during the covid pandemic in Bermuda lead to the rapid expansion of such services and those seeking to provide them. The emergency state is passed, and the BMC must return to its uncompromised duty to secure high standards of professional competence and conduct in the practice of medicine in Bermuda.

The BMC would like to take this opportunity to inform stakeholders that from January 2023, only the following registration categories will be available for medical practitioners registering to practice medicine in Bermuda, dependent on all usual credentialing and immigration criteria.

1. Full Registration: for physicians working full-time on Island.
2. Locum tenens Authorization: Physicians covering periodically on the Island for a fully registered medical practitioner who works on the Island (Maximum of 3 months within 12 months – must reapply for a further 3 month extension).
3. Visiting Practitioner/Tertiary Care Facility Authorization: A physician lawfully practicing medicine or surgery overseas, who is authorized to visit Bermuda to practice medicine or surgery as a visiting registered medical practitioner, practicing in a specialized area of medicine in addition to services provided by the fully registered medical practitioner. (Maximum of 3 months within 12 months – must reapply for a further 3 month extension).
4. Tele-registration (non-patient contact): (new as of January 1st, 2023) Limited only to physicians residing overseas, providing interpretation and reports of imaging/ radiology/ studies carried out by a local healthcare provider on patients in Bermuda. This registration category is for the interpretation and reporting of such studies only, not for direct consultation between the overseas medical practitioner and a patient in Bermuda.



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The BMC will continue to work with local stakeholders to support the provision of telehealth services by physicians registered as applicable in the above categories 1-3. Under the Medical Practitioners Act (MPA) 1950, it is the duty of the BMC to prepare and amend a code of conduct that the BMC considers to be proper for registered persons in a professional respect. This document is referred to locally as 'The Standards of Practice'. Hence the BMC is updating the Standards of Practice to include a section specific to telehealth for registered medical practitioners and will be doing so in consultation with local stakeholders.

The BMC anticipates that, soon, telehealth consultations with overseas medical practitioners will use the same referral process and pre-approved insurance procedure used for in-person overseas consultations.

The BMC would like to thank you for your patience while we navigate this new territory.

Yours sincerely,

Chairperson
Bermuda Medical Council