



PRESS RELEASE

The Bermuda Health Council releases health professional boards' performance report

(Hamilton, Bermuda 29th February 2016) – The Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) announces the publication of its annual report on the performance of health professional statutory boards' enforcement of their registration requirements. The report is being made public for the first time although the Health Council has been monitoring performance since 2013.

To assure public safety and enhance the delivery of health services, the Health Council asks all statutory boards to report annually about their complaints and disciplinary procedures, board composition, and professional registration processes. This process encourages transparency and the development of uniform standards.

Overall, the reports indicate that 5 of the 7 Boards, representing 21 of the 24 professions are meeting basic compliance with existing legislation. Compliance includes having a complaints handling process, registering their professionals and maintaining up-to-date professional registers.

The seven (7) statutory boards that completed the self-assessment for 24 professions include:

Statutory Board	Profession
Bermuda Dental Board	Dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental technicians
Bermuda Medical Council	Physicians, Midwives
Bermuda Nursing Council	Advanced practices nurses, enrolled nurses, nurse associates, nurse specialists, registered nurses
Bermuda Psychologists Registration Council	Psychologists
Council for Allied Health Professions	Addiction Counsellors, Audiologists, Diagnostic imaging technologists, Dietitians, Medical lab technologists, Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists, Chiropodists/Podiatrists; and Speech and Language Pathologists
Optometrists & Opticians Council	Optometrists, opticians
Pharmacy Council	Pharmacists

In 2015, self-reporting from 24 professions indicated two (2) professions were involved in legal action for professional misconduct and six (6) received complaints about professional practice.

The two professions involved in legal action were represented by the Bermuda Medical Council and the Dental Board. The five statutory boards that reported receiving complaints were: Bermuda Medical Council, Bermuda Nursing Council, Council for Allied Health Professions, Bermuda Dental Board and the Psychologists Registration Council.

In addition to the reports from the statutory boards, the Health Council receives complaints and queries from the public on professional conduct; these are then referred to the appropriate entity. From 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015 the Health Council received:

- 2 complaints, and 22 queries about professional registration
- 8 complaints, and 24 queries about the quality of care delivered by regulated professionals

All complaints received by the Health Council are monitored and the outcome tracked.

The Statutory Boards Assessment Report also provides details regarding compliance with the registration requirements by each Board and is available on our website: <http://www.bhec.bm/reports-studies/>.

Tawanna Wedderburn, CEO of the Health Council said: “In our efforts to increase the quality of care, the Health Council releases this report. Health professional registration sets minimum levels of education and experience required to practice. This report highlights the health system’s commitment to ensuring that we have trained and qualified registered professionals delivering care. It also emphasizes complaints handling as we reassure the public that their concerns about healthcare are being addressed. Most statutory boards are doing a commendable job with the limited resources available to them and we appreciate their dedication to registering health professionals who deliver quality patient care.”

Tiara Carlington, Corporate Office Coordinator said: “After comparing previous Board Assessment reports, it is clear that statutory bodies have taken steps towards having more organised registration processes and complaints and disciplinary procedures. While there is still room for improvement, the willingness to change shows the statutory bodies’ appreciation for professional accountability and public safety.”

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About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) is tasked with regulating, coordinating and enhancing the provision of health services in Bermuda. Led by a Board representing a broad range of sectors in Bermuda's community, and staffed by a team of committed professionals, the Bermuda Health Council works with health system stakeholders towards achieving a quality, equitable and sustainable health system.