

PRESS STATEMENT: UPHOLDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICE IN GHANA

The **Ghana Health Information Management Association (GHIMA)** is the professional body mandated to represent and speak for Health Information Management (HIM) practitioners at all healthcare delivery levels in Ghana. The National Executive Council (NEC) of GHIMA issues this statement on the licensing and regulatory requirements for HIM practitioners in all Healthcare Institutions and Facilities in Ghana. We issue this statement in the interest of patient safety and quality of healthcare delivery in the country.

Key Areas of Focus and Recommendations

1. Licensing and Professional Regulation:

Under the Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Act, 2013 (Act 857), the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC) regulates, accredits, and licenses allied health professional practices in Ghana, including our profession (Health Information Management). GHIMA wishes to remind stakeholders that a valid AHPC license is legally required to practice Health Information Management in Ghana.

2. Protection of Patient Data and Health Information:

Clinical decisions, health policy, and patient safety depend on accurate health data. HIM functions must, therefore, be performed by practitioners who hold a recognised HIM qualification and a valid AHPC license. These functions include health data analysis, clinical coding, health data management, and electronic health records (EHR) administration, providing technical support to other staff. This protects data integrity and patient confidentiality.

3. Appeal to Healthcare Facilities and Employers:

GHIMA respectfully call for heads of healthcare facilities, and other stakeholders to assist in the compliance with the Law by:

- Assigning Health Information roles to duly qualified and licensed professionals.
- Supporting Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for practising HIM professionals to maintain professional standards.
- Ensuring that staff handling medical records and health data hold active AHPC licenses (PIN).

4. Encouragement to Practitioners Yet to Be Licensed:

GHIMA encourages all HIM graduates and practitioners who are yet to obtain certification or licensing to register with the AHPC and complete the required licensing examinations

at the earliest opportunity. GHIMA stands ready to offer guidance and support throughout this process.

Commitment to Quality Healthcare Delivery

GHIMA acknowledges the continued efforts of the Ministry of Health, the Allied Health Professions Council, and all other agencies under the ministry across the country. GHIMA remains committed to working collaboratively with them and all other stakeholders to uphold standards, enhance data quality, and protect patient confidentiality across the healthcare delivery system

Recommendations

GHIMA appeals to the Government and healthcare agencies to prioritize the employment and deployment of licensed Health Information Professionals across all levels of healthcare.

This will ensure the availability of credible, accurate, timely and reliable health data, thereby strengthening quality data management and supporting evidence based and informed decision making at all levels and also to strengthen health delivery system in the context of the Free Primary Healthcare.

Signed:

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