



MEDICAL
COUNCIL OF
JAMAICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS NOW REQUIRED FOR DOCTORS

Kingston, Jamaica - As part of its commitment to advancing the healthcare system and ensuring doctors are well-equipped to meet the mental health demands of the time, the Medical Council of Jamaica announces a critical update to Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements. **All doctors will be required to pursue an additional 2 hours of CME, specifically dedicated to Mental Health & Wellness in order to renew practicing certificates in January 2024.** This increase moves the total required CME hours from 20 to 22, enhancing doctors' ability to address the mental health implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The decision to introduce these additional CME hours is driven by the Medical Council of Jamaica's commitment to prioritize the well-being of both patients and healthcare professionals. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the pressing need for mental health support, with healthcare workers facing unprecedented challenges, experiencing increased stress, and witnessing the emotional toll the pandemic has taken on patients.

"With the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, it is crucial for our doctors to be well-prepared and equipped to address the complex mental health and wellness needs of their patients," stated Professor Howard Spencer, Registrar of the Medical Council of Jamaica.

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The dedicated focus on Mental Health & Wellness in the additional CME hours will empower doctors with the knowledge and skills to provide comprehensive and compassionate care to patients facing mental health challenges. The Medical Council of Jamaica firmly believes that by investing in the professional development of doctors, they can better serve the diverse mental health needs of the community.

Professor Spencer further emphasized, **"The Medical Council of Jamaica encourages all doctors to proactively engage in these additional CME hours well in advance of the renewal deadline in early 2024 to ensure a seamless continuation of their practice."**

To support doctors in meeting the new CME requirement, the Medical Council of Jamaica will provide access to a range of accredited providers and resources offering relevant Mental Health & Wellness courses. For more information about the new CME requirement and the Medical Council of Jamaica, please visit www.jamaicamedicalcouncil.org. The Medical Council of Jamaica remains committed to driving excellence in healthcare and empowering doctors to meet the evolving healthcare challenges.

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