



RWANDA ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL



MEDICAL CLINICAL OFFICERS

Scope of Practice

Board of Medical Clinical Officers



Office of the Registrar

Definition

A Clinical officer is a legally recognized Health Professional who is licensed to perform independently general medical duties such as diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury in all age group, ordering and interpreting medical tests, performing routine medical and minor surgical operations. Therefore, Clinical officers treat all diseases seen in general practice and refer those beyond their skills to physicians. Medical clinical officers are also known as Medical Assistants or Physician Assistants in some parts of the world.

Clinical Officer

The medical clinical officer comparable to medical assistants may perform health care tasks in any setting authorized by the supervising authority, including physician offices, clinics, hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, patient homes, nursing homes and other health care institutions.

These tasks may include:

- Take comprehensive medical histories
- Examine patients
- Write case summaries/findings
- Order and interpret general Laboratory tests
- Make diagnosis and appropriate treatment
- Manage general medical conditions
- Communicate effectively with patients, relatives and colleagues
- Performing minor surgical procedures
- Carryout antenatal care, post natal
- Conduct Normal Deliveries and supervise immunization
- Refer emergence and complicated cases appropriately
- Promote community health within health facilities and catchment area.
- Works Public and Private health institutions and Manages Private Dispensaries.

Clinical officer (BSc Holder's)

Most work in primary care health centers and clinics, and in DHs where one will diagnose and treat all common diseases, including serious and life-threatening ones, in all age groups; and stabilize then admit, discharge or refer those beyond their skills to physicians. They are required to sign legal documents such as medical certificates, and to present medical evidence in a court of law where applicable.

They are also trained to manage effectively and efficiently the resources in the health centers, outpatient units at various levels of health facilities. Support supervision of staff and management of equipment, drugs, supplies and other assets and resources in a health facility. Support promotion and maintenance of team-work among health workers in a health facility and catchment area; including promotion of health worker-patient relationship. A0 Clinical officer managing a private clinic

Their clinical portfolio may include:

At OPD may execute one or several of the following:

- Take medical history
- Examine patients
- Order and interpret laboratory tests like X-rays, ECGs, ultra sonogram, Echocardiogram, pulmonary function tests etc.
- Make diagnosis
- Treat common diseases, including serious and life-threatening ones, in all age groups
- Counsel patients and families
- Identifies and refers patients/clients with conditions that cannot be managed with their scope
- Identifies and reports notifiable diseases
- Identifies medical legal conditions and takes appropriate action.
- Sign legal documents such as medical certificates

At wards and critical care units

- Take ward rounds
- Manage emergency situation
- Order or carry out therapy and refer complicated cases to a specialist
- Record progress notes
- Involve in pre-peri-postoperative management of the patients
- Carries out minor procedures/ operations
- Conducts normal delivery
- Provide discharge summary
- Sign legal documents such as medical certificates

At community level

A Clinical Officer, in partnership with other health workers, carries out the following functions:

- Carries out community diagnosis
- Plans, organizes, and conducts integrated PHC activities
- Promotes school health services
- Evaluates health services
- Institutes appropriate patient care including treatment, health education, counseling and rehabilitation.
- Identify vulnerable groups in the community, their needs and plan for appropriate interventions
- Participate actively in the planning, implementation and evaluation process of Primary Health Care, Community-Based Health Care and other national programmes
- Use the principles of epidemiology to control communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Provide health education to patients, special groups and the community in the catchment area.
- Carry out preventive, promotive and rehabilitative health services, including management of maternal and child health and reproductive health services and the screening of cases for referral
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Specialized Clinical Officers

A Specialized Clinical officer performs the appropriate invasive medical and surgical procedures in accordance with his training and area of specialization.

1. Clinical Officer Otolaryngology specialist
2. Clinical Officer Dermatology specialist
3. Clinical Officer Ophthalmology specialist