

The Concept, Application and Relevance of Minimum Standards for Medical Education

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Minimum Standards for Medical Education are a set of criteria and requirements to guide how the medical education could be delivered in line with the global standards and health needs of the country.

The need to determine global minimum standards for medical education was due to the rapid increase in the number of new medical schools in the last decades, many established on unacceptable grounds (e.g. some private schools "for profit").

Minimum standards for undergraduate medical education have been used for many years in national systems of evaluation and accreditation of medical education. They are a necessary tool when external evaluation, recognition and accreditation of medical schools are carried out. The main purpose is to establish a system of national and/or international evaluation and accreditation of medical schools to assure minimum quality standards for medical school programmes. To achieve this purpose, standards must be clearly defined, meaningful, appropriate, relevant, measurable, and achievable accepted by the users.

History of the process of development global minimum standards in Medical Education

- In 1988, Edinburgh Declaration which was adopted by the World Health Assembly, WHA Resolution 42.38, 1989, and the Recommendations of the World Summit on Medical Education was held at 1993.
- World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) Position Paper (1998).
- WFME project on International Standards in Medical Education (5), approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Medical Association (WMA).
- Executive Council of WFME in December 1998 appointed an International Task Force consisting of a Working Party.
- The final document on WFME guidelines on Basic Medical Education was adopted by the WFME Executive Council June 2001.

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