



THE MALAYSIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL'S STATEMENT ON THE PRACTICE OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY MEETINGS IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS

The Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) issues this statement to streamline and safeguard the practice of Morbidity and Mortality (M & M) Meetings in private hospitals.

Background

At present, M & M meetings are indirectly regulated by the Private Healthcare Facilities & Services Act 1998, that require private hospitals to have internal assessment procedures for deaths related to medical procedures. It was observed that M & M meetings in private hospitals, increasingly include the participation of nurses and other non-clinical and/or para-clinical personnel. This approach is adopted with the intention of treating M & M meeting sessions primarily as educational platforms for healthcare personnel to improve the quality of care for patients and minimize harm.

Ethical Considerations

MMC acknowledges the value of promoting learning from adverse outcomes, that are analyzed to encourage reflection and insights from the medical practitioners involved. Whilst recognizing this evolving practice, MMC nevertheless cautions parties involved to be mindful of the following:

- M & M meetings should be restricted to healthcare professionals directly involved in the clinical management of the case and members of a constituted M & M panel.
- Widening the attendance pool may pose significant ethical concerns regarding patient confidentiality and information governance.
- The inclusion of unrelated personnel increases the risk of uncontrolled dissemination of sensitive clinical information and data.

- Such practices if not curtailed, may deviate from the original intention and ethical framework underpinning M & M sessions.

In view of the above, MMC is adopting a formal position to ensure ethical boundaries remain entrenched. As a step towards balancing the rights of patients and next of kin with the need for transparency and continuous improvement, MMC aided by its Ethics Committee, hereby recommends the following:

1. That M & M meetings have restricted attendance, confined to involved clinicians and M & M panel members.
2. Avoid involvement of para-medical and/or other personnel unless deemed absolutely necessary.
3. All information used and records of proceedings should be kept confidential.
4. The exercise should not become the basis for punitive actions by institutions, nor should the information become the basis for potential litigation.
5. If any disciplinary action is deemed necessary, then this should be undertaken under a separate process; e.g. notifying MMC if the matter involves ethical issues.

MMC remains committed to upholding the highest standards of governance and to serving the public's best interests.

ADOPTED BY THE MALAYSIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2025