

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our great honor and privilege to submit our application for membership in your esteemed organization. As an independent and self-financed organization in charge for regulation of health-care profession regarding medical doctors, we represent all practicing physicians providing direct healthcare services in our country, regardless of whether they are Montenegrin nationals or foreign citizens with work permits. Currently, our membership consists of approximately 2,700 professionals. Our operations are independent of state policies, as demonstrated by the fact that the Montenegrin Medical Chamber operates under its own statutes, regulations and bylaws, ensuring transparency and a commitment to the highest professional standards.

Representing all physicians engaged in direct healthcare provision within Montenegro, the Montenegrin Medical Chamber issues three types of licenses:

- **License to Practice in Montenegro** – intended for domestic physicians,
- **License for Foreign Nationals** – intended for physicians who are foreign citizens,
- **Special Purpose Invitation-based License** – issued to international physicians at the request of healthcare institutions.

Licenses are issued for a seven-year period, and their renewal requires physicians to collect a designated number of credits through Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs to meet the criteria for re-licensing.

Chamber's Jurisdiction

The Chamber plays a key role in regulating the medical profession by:

- Issuing mandatory practice licenses for all physicians providing direct healthcare services within Montenegro,
- Maintaining a registry of licensed physicians, which informs public policy and workforce planning in healthcare,
- Overseeing CME activities: accrediting professional events and monitoring the implementation of annual CME plans through the CME Commission.

Support for Professional Development

The MMC continuously supports the professional growth of its members by:

- Providing access to educational platforms,
- Co-financing specialized training programs and professional development initiatives,
- Organizing and co-organizing educational events in collaboration with international partners.

Other Activities and International Cooperation

The MMC regularly publishes a bulletin to inform members of current professional issues. As an associate member of international organizations such as the World Medical Association (WMA), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA), and full member of the Southeast European Medical Forum (SEEMF), the MMC places special emphasis on experience sharing and alignment with contemporary medical standards.

In addition, the MMC actively shapes public policies related to healthcare through expert opinions and proposals. Our efforts focus on advocating for physicians' interests and improving the quality of healthcare services in Montenegro, ultimately aiming to elevate the standard of healthcare for all citizens.

For us, membership in your organization represents a significant step toward advancing healthcare quality in Montenegro. A considerable number of young Montenegrin physicians are already building their careers in prestigious institutions worldwide. Among our ranks are university professors recognized for their substantial contributions to medical science by the European and global scientific communities. They serve as excellent ambassadors of Montenegrin medicine, showcasing our expertise and dedication on the international stage.

Most of our national professional specialist associations have expressed keen interest in initiating the process of the MMC's membership in UEMS. Recognizing the necessity of connecting with European professional communities, especially as a small nation, we aim to provide our members with access to top-tier education and resources offered by your organization. Such opportunities would significantly enhance the professional competencies of our physicians, benefiting patients and elevating Montenegro's healthcare system as a whole.

As a popular tourist destination, it is essential that the quality of our healthcare services meets the high expectations of international visitors. This aligns closely with our national aspirations for early European Union membership and the integration of our healthcare standards into the European framework. These efforts would also bolster health tourism, offering services that adhere to high European standards.

Confident that we share common values and goals, we sincerely hope for a favorable review of our application. We are deeply grateful for your trust and look forward to contributing to the European healthcare community.

Sincerely,

Montenegrin Medical Chamber

TECHNICAL ANEX REGARDING THE STRUCTURE AND REGULATION OF MMC:

The Montenegrin Medical Chamber initially was formed by the Parliament of Montenegro's decision. Under Article 148a of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Care and Health Insurance ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro", No. 27, 29. July 1994.), the right was granted to medical professionals with high degrees (medical doctors and doctors of dentistry) to establish the Medical Chamber because of the protection and improvement of professionalism, medical ethics, raising the quality of health care, as well as protection of professional interests, with the rights and obligations established by the law and the chamber's Statute.

The founding Assembly of the Medical Chamber of Montenegro was held on July 20. 1995.

Today, we are an organization that represents all doctors who directly provide healthcare services in Montenegro and operates entirely independently of current political structures and government funding. Our resources come exclusively from our own sources, enabling us to make autonomous decisions and focus on the interests of our members and the advancement of professional expertise.

I) ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDICAL CHAMBER OF MONTENEGRO

The Assembly, consisting of 49 members, is the most significant body of the Chamber. The members are elected through direct elections within electoral units, as determined by the Statute and Regulations on Election to the Bodies of the Medical Chamber of Montenegro. The term of office for an Assembly member is 4 years, and a regular session is held at least once a year.

The Assembly performs the following duties:

1. Adopts the statute;
2. Adopts the code of medical ethics and deontology;
3. Adopts the work plan and program, and approves the Chamber's activity report;
4. Adopts the financial plan and approves the Chamber's financial report;
5. Adopts the rules of procedure for its work and the work of the bodies it establishes;
6. Adopts regulations on the procedure for issuing, renewing, or revoking work licenses and temporary licenses for medical doctors, with the consent of the Ministry of Health;
7. Proposes to the Ministry of Health regulations on the content and method of maintaining the license register and the format of work licenses for medical doctors;
8. Adopts regulations on registration with the Medical Chamber;

9. Adopts regulations on continuous education and the evaluation of all forms of professional development;
10. Adopts regulations on elections to the bodies of the Chamber;
11. Adopts regulations on the financial operations of the Chamber;
12. Adopts regulations on mutual aid for the Chamber's members;
13. Elects and dismisses the President and Vice President of the Chamber;
14. Elects and dismisses the President and Vice President of the Assembly;
15. Elects and dismisses members of the Executive Board;
16. Determines the membership fee amount;
17. Determines the fee for registration with the Chamber;
18. Determines the fee for issuing and renewing work licenses and temporary work licenses;
19. Reviews the reports of the Chamber's bodies within the Assembly's jurisdiction;
20. Adopts a decision on the dissolution of the Assembly and the holding of early elections;
21. Adopts conclusions, establishes positions, and provides opinions on matters of importance to the Chamber's operations;
22. Adopts a decision on the Chamber's membership in international professional organizations;
23. Performs other duties stipulated by law, the statute, and the Chamber's acts.

II) EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board, with 9 members, is elected by the Assembly from the Chamber members. The President and Vice President of the Chamber serve as the President and Vice President of the Executive Board. The term of office for members of the Executive Board is 4 years, and its work is governed by the Rules of Procedure for the Executive Board.

III) PERMANENT COMMISSIONS OF THE MEDICAL CHAMBER OF MONTENEGRO

The Montenegrin Medical Chamber has 6 permanent commissions:

1. Commission for Ethical Issues and Deontology,
2. Commission for Continuous Education,
3. Commission for Professional Matters,
4. Commission for Traditional and Alternative Medicine,
5. Commission for Private Healthcare Institutions,
6. Commission for the Destruction of Facsimiles.

The Commission are elected and dismissed by the Executive Board. Commission members are elected from the Chamber members, and if necessary, from professionals

who are not Chamber members. The Permanent Commissions consist of a President, a Vice President, and 5 (five) members.

The work of the Commissions is regulated by the Rules of Procedure, the statute, code, various regulations, and rules of procedure for the operation of bodies.

1. COMMISSION FOR ETHICAL ISSUES

1. Monitors adherence to the rules of the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology;
2. Tracks international standards in medical ethics and deontology and proposes amendments to the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology;
3. Provides opinions and interpretations of the rules of the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology;
4. Works on preserving the reputation and dignity of the medical profession, maintaining medical confidentiality, and fostering collegial relationships among doctors;
5. Reviews complaints regarding violations of the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology, makes conclusions and recommendations, and, if necessary, submits an opinion to the Chamber's Prosecutor.
6. The Commission for Ethical Issues and Deontology:
7. Performs other tasks as prescribed by law, the statute, and the Chamber's acts.

2. COMMISSION FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

1. Ensures the achievement and maintenance of professional competence according to the standards of modern medical science;
2. Makes decisions regarding the evaluation of all forms of professional development, by the regulations on continuous education and the methods for evaluating all forms of professional development;
3. Collaborates with medical faculties, healthcare institutions, the Commission for Professional Matters, medical associations, and other entities on continuous education and related issues;
4. Develops continuous education programs;
5. Organizes continuous education independently or in cooperation with other legal entities;
6. Issues certificates of participation to attendees of professional events organized by the Chamber, as well as other documents arising from the Chamber's general acts;
7. Performs other duties as prescribed by law, the statute, and the Chamber's acts.

3. COMMISSION FOR PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

1. Participates in preparing standards and norms for healthcare services;
2. Ensures the improvement of healthcare service quality;
3. Collaborates on the process of setting prices for healthcare services;
4. Provides expert opinions and suggestions in drafting regulations in the fields of healthcare and health insurance;

5. Collaborates with medical doctor associations, the Faculty of Medicine, the Ministry of Health, and other institutions;
6. Reviews professional matters, provides opinions, and suggestions, and takes professional stances;
7. Takes measures to combat quackery;
8. Follows scientific recommendations for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;
9. Reviews complaints from citizens and institutions about healthcare services and provides opinions, recommendations, and takes professional stances;
10. Reviews complaints regarding errors in the professional work of medical doctors makes conclusions and recommendations, and, if necessary, submits an opinion to the Chamber's Prosecutor;
11. If necessary, proposes the formation of commissions for specific specialist fields and delegates tasks within its jurisdiction;
12. The Commission for Professional Matters:
13. Performs other tasks as prescribed by law, the statute, and the Chamber's acts.

4. COMMISSION FOR TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Proposes the development of rules regarding the conditions, methods, and procedures for performing traditional medicine practices in healthcare institutions;

1. Works on defining the standards and norms for services in the field of traditional and alternative medicine;
2. Develops a proposal for the procedure for adopting traditional and alternative medicine methods and practices;
3. Defines the education levels required for each traditional and alternative medicine method or practice;
4. Participates in the development of regulations on continuous medical education and the evaluation of all forms of professional development in the field of traditional and alternative medicine.

5. COMMISSION FOR THE OPERATION OF PRIVATE HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS

1. Addresses issues related to the provision of healthcare services in private healthcare institutions;
2. Ensures the quality, scope, and organization of work in private healthcare institutions and their integration into the healthcare network;
3. Provides expert opinions on the organization of work in private healthcare institutions;
4. Protects the interests of its members in contract negotiations with the Health Insurance Fund of Montenegro and other insurance companies;
5. Participates in the process of setting prices for healthcare services in private healthcare institutions;
6. The Commission for the Operation of Private Healthcare Institutions:
7. Performs other duties by the law, the statute, and the Chamber's acts.

6. COMMISSION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF FACSIMILES:

Carries out the destruction of facsimiles by the prescribed procedure;

1. Keeps records of facsimile destruction;
2. Performs other tasks by the law, the statute, and the Chamber's acts.

IV) SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Supervisory Board oversees the following:

- 1) Use of the Chamber's funds;
- 2) Material and financial operations of the Chamber;
- 3) Exercising the rights and fulfilling the obligations of members of the chamber;
- 4) Use of funds for the work of the Chamber's professional service;
- 5) Cash management;
- 6) Other tasks as required by law and the chamber's statute.

V) COURT OF THE MMC

The court of the Montenegrin Medical Chamber is comprised of the president, deputy president, and three members.

The President and Deputy President of the Court are appointed by the Executive Committee based on the President of the Chamber's recommendation from a pool of distinguished lawyers, while the members are elected from the Chamber's membership.

The Court of the MMC operates independently and carries out its functions, making judgments by laws, statutes, codes of medical ethics and deontology, and regulations governing the organization, procedures, and operation of the Court.

In case of a violation of the law, code of medical ethics and deontology, unprofessional conduct within the profession, or as stipulated in a special act, the Court determines the responsibility of a member of the Chamber. The decision of the Court is final and can be challenged only by the law.

VI) OFFICE SERVICE OF THE MMC

The office service of the Chamber carries out professional and administrative-technical tasks related to the Chamber's activities. The professional service of the Chamber is overseen by the Secretary of the Medical Chamber of Montenegro. The number of employees in the professional service, their job descriptions and tasks, working conditions, and other related matters are established by the Rulebook on the organization and systematization of the professional service of the Medical Chamber of Montenegro. Currently, it has 3 employees.