



PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

STATEMENT ON DETERIORATING HEALTH STANDARDS IN THE COUNTRY

Statement requested by Senator Martha Wangari

Specific Information sought:-

1. Enumerate the statistical figures of genuine medical practitioners and quack doctors and medics in Kenya
2. Explain the action that is taken on quacks doctors and medics who are netted in swoops by the Ministry of Health
3. Enumerate the number of quack doctors and medics before the court of law and state the outcomes of cases before the courts of law that have been heard and determined in the last ten years
4. Explain what Kenyans should look out for in authenticating credentials of doctors and medics in both public and private hospitals and the steps that the National Government is taking to educate Kenyans on how to distinguish between genuine, legally registered and quack doctors and medics.
5. Explain the measures that the Government takes to continuously regulate and harmonize the curriculums used in private medical colleges
6. Give the status of the recent cases of children who were injected with wrong vaccines and the case of Mugo Wa Wairimu

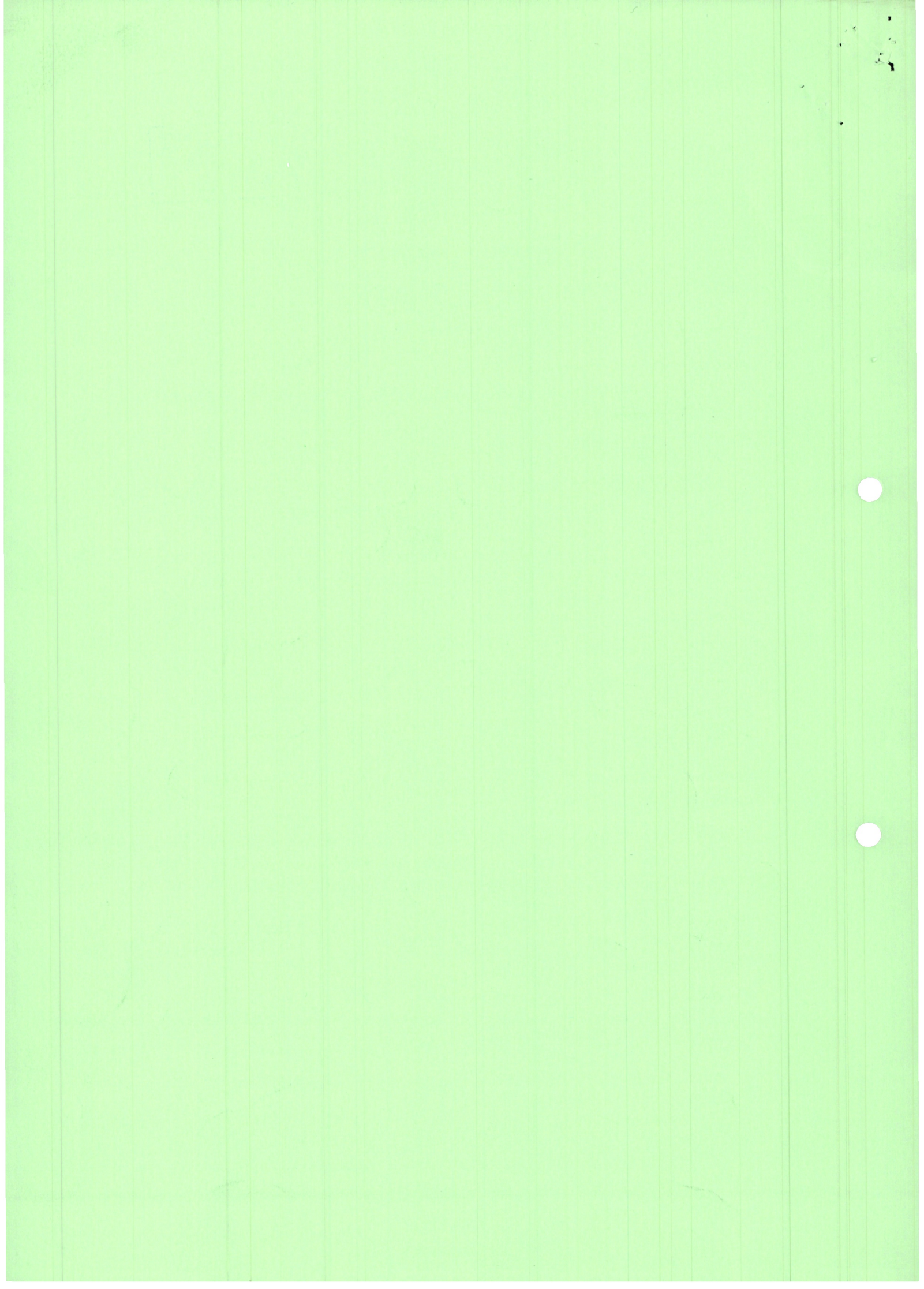
Answers

1. Enumerate the statistical figures of genuine medical practitioners and quack doctors and medics in Kenya

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board under Cap 253 has the sole mandate to regulate the practice of medicine, dentistry and health institutions in Kenya. As at 7th October, 2015, the Board has the following statistics

Registered Medical Practitioners	—	9902
Registered Dental Practitioners	—	1165
Licensed (Active for year 2015)		
Medical	—	5628
Dental	—	611
Health facilities registered	—	4428
Licensed (Active for year 2015)	—	2847

It is not possible to give the number of quack doctors in the country as they are identified during the crackdown carried out by health regulatory bodies in the joint inspections.



2. Explain the action that is taken on quacks doctors and medics who are netted in swoops by the Ministry of Health

When identified, quacks are arrested and taken to the courts where they charged under respective counts.

3. Enumerate the number of quack doctors and medics before the court of law and state the outcomes of cases before the courts of law that have been heard and determined in the last ten years

In a view to ensure that only qualified medical and dental practitioners are practising in the country, the Board has over the years arrested unqualified people (quacks) who have been found providing medical or dental services to the public.

In 2014 and 2015 a total number of 89 people have been arrested during the joined inspections and are currently before various courts in the country.

In the last ten years the Board in collaboration with the police has prosecuted a total of 13 cases involving quacks. Of the 13 cases 8 cases have been determined where the accused were found guilty and ordered to either pay a fine or serve a jail term of 2 years. The remaining 5 cases are still before the courts of law

4. Explain what Kenyans should look out for in authenticating credentials of doctors and medics in both public and private hospitals and the steps that the National Government is taking to educate Kenyans on how to distinguish between genuine, legally registered and quack doctors and medics.

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board registers all medical and dental practitioners and issues them a **permanent registration number**. This number is **unique to each doctor**. To ensure that the doctors are active and fit to practice, the Board issues them a **Retention Certificate** every year. This certificate should always be displayed at the health facility where one is practicing. With this certificate, the Board is able to know the active doctors in the country. This is mandatory to all doctors both in public and private. The doctors in private practice are also issued practice licenses which **should be displayed in their facilities**. Health facilities registered by the Board also have **annual licenses issued by the Board and should be displayed conspicuously** in the health facilities.

The Board has publicly availed the following registers on its website which are updated regularly.

<http://medicalboard.co.ke/online-services/retention>

1. *Retention Register for the year 2015*
2. *Foreign Doctors on Temporary License for the year 2015*
3. *Health Facilities licensed for the year 2015*

The Board is in the process of piloting a system to assist the public to ascertain whether the doctor or health facility is registered and licensed. The system, **iCare** is android based and is downloadable for **Android based phones** and also available on SMS version running on **short code 20547**.

One needs to type the name of the doctor or the health facility and then the details are displayed. For doctors, the registration number, license status, specialty, sub specialty affiliated health facility where they practice and based on the services received, one is able to rate the doctor. For the health facilities, the distance from where one is currently located, license status, ownership and primary services offered are displayed. This will enable one get the route and locate the available health facilities within a particular radius especially during emergencies and accidents.

The other regulatory bodies have their registers which the public uses to verify professionals registered by them.

5. Explain the steps that the Government has taken, if any to enforce the medical policy that a male doctor should always be accompanied by a female colleague when attending to a female patient.

There is no medical policy that a male doctor should always be accompanied by a female colleague when attending to a female patient. However, the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board together with stakeholders have developed the **Professional Code of Conduct and Discipline** which guides the conduct of medical and dental practitioners when providing care to the patients.

"Section IV b(i) on Professional Ethics and Ethical Conduct, Consent, Forms of Consent (i)- the patient should give free and informed consent to the care giver before they are attended. This includes the preferred gender of the care giver"

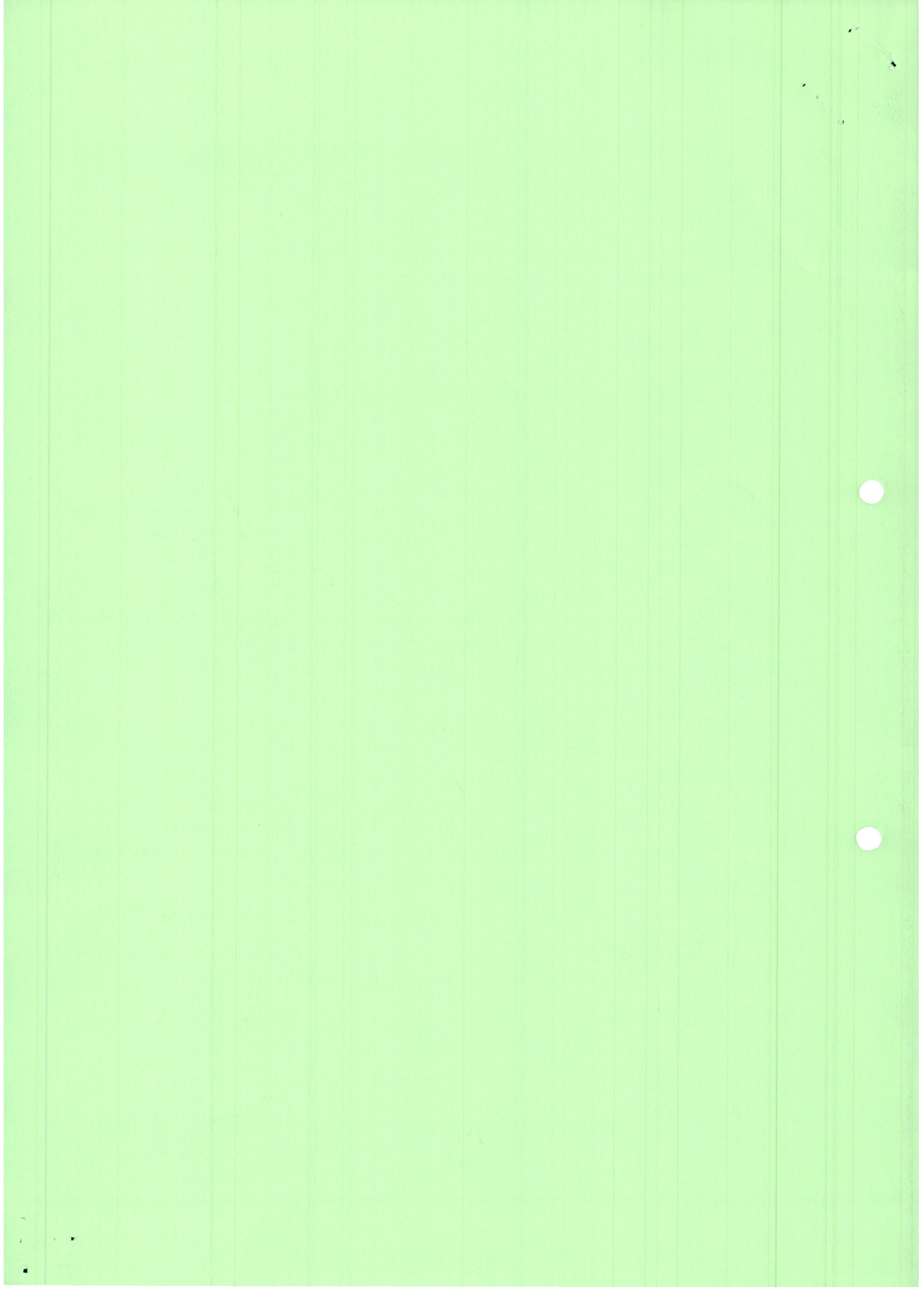
The Ministry of Health together with stakeholders have also developed the **Kenya National Patients' Rights Charter** where **Right No 4** states, *"A patient has the right to choose a healthcare provider as long as the choice is acceptable under the medical and ethical standards"*

Both documents are downloadable from the Board's website on the links below:

1. http://medicalboard.co.ke/resources/PATIENTS_CHARTER_2013.pdf
2. <http://medicalboard.co.ke/resources/Code-of-Professional-Conduct-and-Discipline-6th-Edition.pdf>

6. Explain the measures that the Government takes to continuously regulate and harmonize the curriculums used in private medical colleges

The Government, through the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board has developed and published the **Bachelor of Medicine Core Curriculum** and **Bachelor of Dental**



Surgery Core Curriculum which set the minimum standards expected of an institution offering medicine and dentistry courses in the country.

The Board has recently together with stakeholders developed and launched **the National Training & Quality Assurance Standards for Medical, Dental Schools & Teaching Hospitals in Kenya**

The above publications are accessible from the Boards website on the links below:

http://medicalboard.co.ke/resources_page/publications

1. *National Training & Quality Assurance Standards for Medical Schools & Teaching Hospitals in Kenya*
2. *National Training & Quality Assurance Standards for Dental Schools & Teaching Hospitals in Kenya*
3. *Bachelor of Medicine Core Curriculum*
4. *Bachelor of Dental Surgery Core Curriculum*

The Board also carries out continued inspection using the Joint Inspection Checklist which is used to score the health facilities, inspection and accreditation of medical and dental training schools, teaching hospitals and internship training centres to ensure that quality training is being offered to the students.

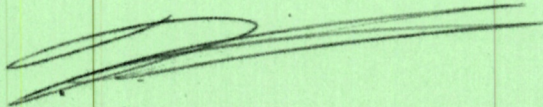
7. Give the status of the recent cases of children who were injected with wrong vaccines and the case of Mugo Wa Wairimu

Status of the recent cases of children who were injected

Out of the 21 children that were referred to the Nairobi Hospital for further management, all of them were discharged for follow up and rehabilitation at the county health facilities. It is expected that all children except one will recover because it was partial paralysis

Case of James Mugo Ndichu alias Mugo wa Wairimu

The Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board, Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Board, Nursing Council of Kenya and Radiation Protection Board worked together with investigating officers and Director of Public Prosecution and preferred a total of 11 charges against him. The case is in court.



James W. Macharia
CABINET SECRETARY
October 7, 2015

