



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - PAKISTAN

Plot 72-F/2, 1st Floor, 9th Street, Jami Commercial,
Phase VII, Defence Housing Authority, Karachi
Phone: +92-21-35311898, 35311777
Fax: +92-21-35390410
Email: ti.pakistan@transparency.org.pk
Website: www.transparency.org.pk
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March 03, 2026

Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj
President, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council
Islamabad

Subject: Recognition of PMDC's Leadership in Advancing Ethical Governance in Healthcare through Enforcement of Patient Safety Code of Ethics and Support for Its Effective Implementation

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan appreciates the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council for the enactment of the Code of Ethics for doctors and dentists. This decisive step strengthens professional standards, reinforces patient protection, and promotes integrity and public trust within the healthcare system.

TI Pakistan appreciates the Council's firm stance against conflicts of interest, influenced prescription, particularly the restrictions on pharmaceutical gifts, sponsorships, and financial inducements, as well as the prohibition of inappropriate relationships with patients. These provisions send a clear message that medical decisions must remain independent and guided solely by patient welfare.

Transparency International Pakistan, along with Patients Not Profit, an initiative of LSHTM and Aga Khan University Karachi, has been advocating for stronger ethical safeguards in healthcare sector through high-level policy forums and stakeholder engagements, including the forum in September 2025, where you participated and shared PMDC's progress. During these discussions, the Forum highlighted the need for robust accountability mechanisms to address undue commercial influence and ethical vulnerabilities in service delivery. The enforcement of PMDC Code of Ethics represents a constructive reform in line with key recommendations from the Forum.

To maximize its impact, Transparency International Pakistan recommends ensuring wide circulation and dissemination of the Code of Ethics among public and private hospitals, clinics, medical colleges, universities and relevant professional associations across the country. Clear and consistent communication will support compliance and help institutionalize a culture of ethical practice.

TI Pakistan also recommends the development of accessible awareness materials for patients, so they are informed of their rights and the standards they are entitled to expect from healthcare providers. An informed public is essential to strengthening ethics, accountability and sustaining confidence in the doctor patient relationship.

Transparency International Pakistan remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance transparency, accountability, and ethical governance in the health sector and remains available to provide any support through its Multi-Stakeholder Committee on Ethical Practices in Healthcare (MSC)

Sincerely


Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar,
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. PSPM, PM House, Islamabad
2. Federal Minister, Ministry of National Health Services & Coordination, Islamabad
3. Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services & Coordination, Islamabad
4. CEO DRAP, Islamabad

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