

**MRH 001**

**PRE - INDUCTION SEMINAR LECTURE**

**FOR**

**MEDICAL REHABILITATION THERAPY**  
**GRADUANDS**

**IN NIGERIA**

**FIRST LECTURE**

**COURSE TITLE: CORE STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR REGISTERED MEDICAL REHABILITATION THERAPISTS IN NIGERIA AND MEDICO-LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF BREACHING THE STANDARDS.**

## **COURSE OUTLINES**

1. Introduction.
2. Statutory Functions of the Board (MRTB)
3. Medico-Legal Implications of Breaching the Standards of Proficiency

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Medical Rehabilitation Therapists (Registration) Board of Nigeria (MRTB) which was constituted by a Nigerian Law, i.e. Decree No. 38 of 1988 now M9 LFN 2004, for the Regulation and Control of Training and Practice of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Audiology Professions in the Health Sector in Nigeria, was inaugurated on December 29, 1992. This Board is a parastatal, under the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria Unlike the other Boards or Councils, the Medical Rehabilitation Therapists (Registration) Board Nigeria (MRTB) has a heterogeneous nature in the sense that the Board of controls the training and practice of three different Medical Professions in Nigeria. These Medical Professions under the control of this Board include:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy and Clinical Audiology Practice

Two of these disciplines: Osteopathic Medicine and Chiropractic Medicine which were earlier under the legal control of the Board (MRTB) up to the year 2002 are now under the Legal control of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCAN) with effect from year 2003.

Presently, the Board (MRTB) is a regulatory body for the regulation and control of training and practice of the following professions in Nigeria: Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Audiology.

## **BRIEF ABOUT THE BOARD (MRTB)**

The Board (MRTB) started with the inauguration of 16 (sixteen) pioneer members by December 1992 which included Professor G.I. Odia (Chairman), Professor Isaac O. Owoeye (Registrar), Mr. B. A. Williams (Member), Dr. C. C. Unogwu (Member), Mr. A. O. Ukaegbu (Member), Dr. K. Sodeke (Member), Dr. (Mrs.) A. O. Sanya (Member), Dr. W. O. Owolawi (Member) Mr. M. O. B. Olaogun Dr. I. O. Falope (Member), Mr. G. Etikeretse (Member), Mr. M. Dawodu (Member), Mr. C. B. Dan-Jumbo (Member), Chief J. A. Dagbue (Member), Mrs. O. O. Coker (Member) and Miss S. A. Adeniji-Adele (Member).

The Board (MRTB) was later dissolved and thirteen (13) members reconstituted and inaugurated by December 2000. Professor G. I. Odia still the Chairman and Professor Isaac O. Owoeye still the Registrar, others included Prof. M.O.B. Olaogun, Mr. Henry Onuwe, Prof. (Mrs.) A.O. Sanya, Mr. C.B. Dan-Jumbo, Mrs. Arit E. Eferetei, Mrs. O.O. Coker, Mrs. O.O. Williams, Irene Okeke-Igbokwe, Dr. Kabir Abubakar, Dr. (Mrs.) Kolo, Alh. Usman Ndalolo.

Early 2004, the Board (MRTB) was dissolved, new members were appointed for another 3 (three) years tenure in office. Inauguration of these new 17 (Seventeen) members was done on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2004. Professor G. I. Odia reappointed as the Chairman for another 3 (three) years, others are Dr. (Mrs.) Bridget Birabi, Pastor (Mrs.) Geraldine Edegar, Irene Okeke-Igbokwe, Mrs. O. O. Williams, Mr. Alfred Abegunde, Mrs. P.N. Abanum, Mallam Halilu Mohammed, Mrs. O. Ladipo, Dr. O. Onabowale (RIP), Prof. (Mrs.) A. O. Sanya, Prof. M.O.B. Olaogun, Alh. Suleiman I. Maru, Mr. Adebola Adefalu, Dr. H. A. N. Okeke, Ms. Gloria Umerah and Mr. J. D. Jogunola the Ag.Registrar. The Ag. Registrar is also the Accounting Officer/Chief Executive Officer of the Board (MRTB).

The Board is located at Central Medical Library Compound, Yaba, Lagos; it has a Journal formerly known as Journal of Nigeria Medical Rehabilitation Therapist, now known as Nigerian Journal of Medical Rehabilitation, which the Board prints twice in a year – June and December.

The Board (MRTB) is referred to as the Regulator – issuing licenses to the practitioners of Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Speech Therapy and Audiology,

while a registered member of the Board (MRTB), is called the Registrant. The Board (MRTB) issues Professional Licences that expires every 31<sup>st</sup> December and by January of every year, a Medical Rehabilitation Therapist is expected to renew his licence. If he fails to renew his Professional licence he is regarded as a quack.

## **STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD (MRTB)**

The major statutory functions of the Board (MRTB) are as follows:

- (a) Determining what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become registrants of the relevant professions.
- (b) Raising those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit.
- (c) Conducting examinations in the relevant profession and awarding Degree or Diploma certificates to successful candidates as appropriate and prescription of fees to be paid in respect thereof.
- (d) Regulation and control of professional practice of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Audiology in Nigeria either hospital- based or otherwise.
- (e) Accreditation of academic and clinical programmes, hospitals and clinics for Medical Rehabilitation training and practice in the country.
- (f) Infiltrating discipline and decorum into the profession, elimination of quackery and protection of the rights of the individual Registrant accordingly.
- (g) Production and maintenance of up-to-date register for the Registrants under the Board (MRTB). This is published as Bulletin once a year.
- (h) Conducting Induction Programmes to admit fresh graduands into Medical Rehabilitation Profession.
- (i) Organising refresher courses / Continuing Educational programmes for the Manpower development of Medical Rehabilitation professions nationwide, This could be inform of Public lectures, seminars, symposia for a, etc.

Performing other functions conferred on the Board (MRTB) by the Act establishing it (Decree 38 of 1988).

## **MEDICO-LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF BREACHING THE STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY**

- a. Non-Registered members are prohibited by law from holding any appointment in the public or private establishment, body or institution, if the holding of such appointment involves the performance by him in Nigeria of any duty pertaining to the relevant profession for gain.

- b. Non-Registered members shall not be entitled to establish a private clinic in Nigeria, (Sect.15(1) of Decree 38 or 1988)
- c. Non-Registered member who holds himself out to be so registered or uses any name, title, description or symbol calculated to lead any person to infer that he is so registered, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction for a first offence to a fine of not less than ₦100,000.00 and not more than ₦150,00.00 or to imprisonment for a term of six months or to both such fine and imprisonment and on conviction for a second or any subsequent offence to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year and not more than three years.
- d. Registrant found guilty of a criminal offence by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or elsewhere shall be deemed by the Board (MRTB) to have committed an act of gross misconduct and may lose his right to practice permanently.
- e. Registrant accused of Professional misconduct may face the disciplinary committee of the Board (MRTB). Depending on the gravity of the misconduct, such a Registrant may: (i) lose his right to practice for a stipulated period. (ii) lose his right to practice permanently. (iii) have his name struck off the register.

