

LEVEL 5 REFERRAL HOSPITAL COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST (KENYA)

This checklist outlines the mandatory Ministry of Health and KMPDC requirements for operating a Level 5 (Secondary Referral) Hospital in Kenya. Use this document as a pre-inspection self-audit tool.

1. Facility Definition & Scope

- ■ Licensed as a Level 5 Referral Hospital
- ■ Functions as a secondary referral centre
- ■ Receives complex cases from Level 4 hospitals
- ■ Provides advanced specialist and critical care services

2. Core Infrastructure Requirements

- ■ Minimum of 60 inpatient beds
- ■ Fully functional ICU (minimum 12 beds)
- ■ Fully functional HDU (minimum 12 beds)
- ■ Separate Outpatient Department (OPD) and Accident & Emergency (A&E;)
- ■ Multiple major operating theatres with recovery areas
- ■ Mortuary and autopsy services available
- ■ Central oxygen piping and resuscitation systems
- ■ Reliable power backup and water storage

3. Diagnostic & Support Services

- ■ Advanced diagnostic imaging (CT scan, MRI preferred)
- ■ Class E laboratory with 24-hour services
- ■ Blood transfusion services
- ■ Dialysis unit with minimum 5 machines
- ■ 24-hour inpatient and outpatient pharmacy
- ■ Pathology and histopathology services

4. Services Level 5 Must Provide

- ■ Medical, surgical, paediatric, neonatal, obstetric and gynaecological care
- ■ High-risk pregnancies and complex Caesarean sections
- ■ Emergency and elective surgeries

- ■ Oncology services (chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy)
- ■ Rehabilitation services (physiotherapy and occupational therapy)
- ■ Palliative care services

5. Staffing Requirements

- ■ At least 4–6 full-time specialists across core disciplines
- ■ 10–15 Medical Officers
- ■ 50+ Registered Nurses across specialised units
- ■ ICU staffing ratio of 1 nurse to 1 patient
- ■ Dedicated Anaesthesiologist and Critical Care Specialist
- ■ Radiologists, radiographers, lab technologists, pharmacists
- ■ Biomedical engineers, ICT and administrative staff
- ■ Dedicated Hospital CEO and management team

6. Emergency & Referral Systems

- ■ 24/7 emergency coverage
- ■ Advanced life support ambulance available
- ■ Formal referral and back-referral protocols documented
- ■ Functional triage and emergency response systems

7. Infection Prevention & Waste Management

- ■ Infection prevention and control protocols documented
- ■ Colour-coded waste segregation system
- ■ NEMA-approved waste disposal or incineration
- ■ Clean and dirty zoning clearly marked
- ■ Non-touch handwashing stations in clinical areas

8. Documentation & Compliance

- ■ Valid facility license displayed
- ■ Practicing licenses for all staff available
- ■ Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) documented
- ■ HMIS reporting systems active
- ■ Quality improvement and audit systems in place
- ■ Patient complaint and feedback mechanisms
- ■ Professional indemnity insurance in place

9. Common Inspection Failure Points

- ■ Declaring Level 5 without functional ICU or HDU
- ■ Inadequate specialist staffing
- ■ Understaffed critical care units
- ■ Operating advanced services without full systems
- ■ Poor documentation or quality audits

Key Reminder: Level 5 hospitals are regional referral centres. If infrastructure, staffing, and systems do not fully align, inspectors will not compromise.