**Report on professional support network**

A further deliverable of the ETAMBA project is to create a professional support network for COs/AMOs in Malawi and Tanzania. COs form part of a wider group of non-physician clinicians (NPCs) in Malawi, Tanzania and other sub-Saharan African countries. We have established links with the Africa Network for Non Physician Clinicians (<http://knowledge-gateway.org/NPC>). This network was created to promote the sharing of knowledge, expertise and innovations on NPC training and education in order to:

1. Gain political and professional support for NPCs
2. Improve the quality and development of training in maternal and neonatal health
3. Contribute to a decrease in maternal and neonatal mortality

As this network shares the core values of ETATMBA we have decided that we will be able to make better progress by partnering with this group. As the focus of the Africa Network for Non Physician Clinicians is the whole of sub-Saharan Africa, we realize however that there will need to be some localization of professional support. So as part of our pilot professional support network activities we have designed and implemented the Malawi NPC Network (<http://malawinpcnetwork.org/>).

The Malawi NPC Network is a community bringing together NPCs committed to developing shared leadership, values and service improvement to improve maternal and neonatal health in Malawi. The Malawi NPC Network is working towards these goals by:

1. establishing a framework of shared values between clinicians and patients to improve clinical decision making
2. establishing a framework of shared leadership to enable NPCs to be actively involved in the planning, delivery and transformation of services for patients
3. sharing good clinical practice and training opportunities
4. using and sharing clinical evidence including guidelines
5. improving clinical services through audit
6. providing a forum for continuous professional development
7. representing the interests and development needs of NPCs as a professional group

The next phase of our professional support network is to create a localised Tanzania portal for AMO support building upon the Malawi NPC Network.