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For Immediate Release

**RESTATEMENT BY THE EMERGENCY MEDICINE SOCIETY OF GHANA (EMSOG) ON THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH QUERY TO THE CEO OF KOMFO ANOKYE TEACHING HOSPITAL**

The Emergency Medicine Society of Ghana (EMSOG) has taken note of the Ministry of Health's query titled, "QUERY REGARDING 'KATH ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CENTRE FULL AND UNABLE TO ADMIT NEW CASES - MANAGEMENT'" issued to the Chief Executive Officer of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH).

EMSOG recognizes the Ministry of Health's responsibility to ensure accountability within Ghana's healthcare system. However, we believe it is important that the circumstances surrounding the temporary suspension of emergency admissions at the KATH Accident and Emergency Centre be considered within the context of internationally accepted emergency department operational practices and patient safety principles.

The temporary suspension of admissions was not a decision taken in isolation by hospital management. Rather, it followed extensive consultations among key stakeholders, including hospital leadership, emergency care professionals, clinical teams, and other relevant actors, following careful assessment of severe overcrowding, resource limitations, and the potential risks to patient safety and quality of care.

Globally, emergency departments experiencing critical overcrowding and capacity constraints may implement temporary diversion or controlled admission measures to preserve patient safety, maintain standards of care, and ensure that critically ill patients receive appropriate and timely treatment. Such measures are recognized as best practice in emergency care systems when all available resources have been exhausted.

EMSOG is concerned that any adverse outcome arising from the query process may unintentionally discourage healthcare leaders and frontline professionals from implementing necessary patient safety measures during periods of extreme operational pressure. Healthcare managers and emergency care practitioners must be supported in making difficult but necessary decisions that prioritize patient welfare and safety.

EMSOG therefore urges that the matter be reviewed with due consideration of the operational realities facing emergency departments across the country, particularly the persistent challenges of overcrowding, inadequate inpatient bed capacity, delayed transfers from emergency departments, and increasing demand for emergency care services.

The Society remains committed to supporting evidence-based emergency department practices that improve patient flow, enhance patient safety, and ensure access to appropriate emergency

care. We will continue to advocate for systems and policies that strengthen emergency healthcare delivery and protect both patients and healthcare workers.

This commitment is especially critical at a time when Ghana remains on heightened alert for Ebola Virus Disease and other emerging public health threats. Maintaining safe patient flow, effective triage processes, infection prevention measures, and adequate emergency care capacity is essential to safeguarding public health.

EMSOG stands ready to work with the Ministry of Health, hospital management, healthcare workers, and all stakeholders to strengthen Ghana's emergency care system and ensure the delivery of safe, timely, and high-quality emergency care for all.

Signed



Dr Daniel Osei-Kwame
President, EMSOG



Mr. Emmanuel Acheampong
General Secretary, EMSOG