

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the management and staff of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN), I warmly welcome you into this New Year 2025. It is my prayer that this year would be filled with God's innumerable blessings for us all as individuals, corporate organisations and also the Pharmaceutical industry.

The Pharmacy Council of Nigeria is poised to deliver stellar regulatory services that would help us all achieve our set objectives for this current year.



Pharm Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed FPSN FPCPharm

Registrar/CEO

Pharmacy Council of Nigeria

2024 in review

The past year was filled with remarkable achievements for the PCN, thanks to the support and collaboration from our esteemed stakeholders. As we move into this new year, we aspire to achieve even greater milestones.

Key achievements in 2024:

- Induction of over 3,000 new pharmacists (from Nigerian universities) and 133 foreign pharmacy graduates.

- Judicial and Regulatory Milestones: The Federal High Court judgement in Kano (16 February 2024) mandating the relocation of operators of illegal facilities in the Sabon Gari open drug market to the Coordinated Wholesale Center (CWC) in Kano State; This was followed by a well coordinated operation undertaken jointly by PCN and NAFDAC between 17-24 February 2024 which led to the closure of 1321 illegal premises.
- Enforcement exercises: Over 4000 premises were sealed (pharmacies, patent medicine stores, illegal medicine stores) across various states including
 - Gombe (751),
 - Plateau (510),
 - Jigawa (375),
 - Abuja (556),
 - Bauchi (571),
 - Cross River (405),
 - Kaduna (666),
 - Adamawa (581).
- Operational efficiency: The PCN management with the support of the PSN Foundation successfully finalised the second edition of the PCN Strategic plan 2024-2027.
- Stakeholder Engagements: Engagement with key stakeholders including FMOH&SW, USAID, USP/PQM+, SFH, NMEP, SCIDaR, ePharma4FP, PSN and its technical arms, PSN Foundation, NPHCDA, DSS, and many others
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Partnerships: Signing of an MoU with the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to abolish the training program of Pharmaceutical Technology in Polytechnics and other related institutions (17 April 2024); Other Memoranda of Collaboration (MoC) were signed with SCIDaR, Maisha Meds, FHMEngage
- Inspections and Compliance: A total of six operational vehicles were added to the fleet of vehicles for inspectorate activities. In addition, Hospital pharmacy inspections, reaccreditation and advisory visits were done across various states to ensure regulatory compliance;
- Quality Management: Conducted biannual internal audits by the PCN QMS Team and held biannual management review meetings.
- Capacity Building and Development: Organised stakeholders' and sensitization meetings on the review of Online Pharmacy Regulations; Invested in staff capacity building and development; Study tour to Ghana to understudy their National Electronic Pharmacy Platform (NEPP)

These accomplishments reflect our commitment to advancing the pharmaceutical profession in Nigeria. We look forward to even more success in the coming year.

Month under review



EDUCATION & TRAINING

The month of December recorded the induction of two hundred and fifty-nine (259) fresh pharmacy graduands. The graduates are from the

- University of Lagos, Lagos State. (112)
- University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, (147)

Supplementary induction was also done for twenty-eight (28) graduands from the

- University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State (1),
- Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Awka, Anambra State (1),
- Kaduna State University, Kaduna State (26).

PCN welcomes these new pharmacists into our noble profession.

Kindly note that the first cycle of the 2025 Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Orientation Programme (FPGOP) has been scheduled to hold at Gombe State University, Gombe, and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, from 27 April to 6 June 2025. Registration has commenced, and prospective participants are to note that registration closes on 11 April 2025.



Month under review



PHARMACY PRACTICE

PCN participated in a 5-day meeting focused on the development of the Rapid Response Toolkit for Rabies Control. The meeting was organised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and the Federal Ministry of Environment. This is in line with the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies by 2030. The event took place from 1-7 December 2024 in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

It is instructive to note that PCN is an active member of the committee on the development of a prescription and dispensing policy led by the food and drugs services department of the federal ministry of health and social welfare

Additionally, Orientation Programme (OP) and Continuing Education Programme (CEP) sessions were conducted for holders of PPMV licences in various states: Bayelsa State on 5 December, Jigawa State on 12 December, and Niger and Kaduna States on 18 December 2024.



Month under review

PROGRAMS COORDINATING DEPARTMENT

PCN took part in the second biannual meeting of the ePharma4FP Project Advisory Committee held on 2 December 2024 in Lagos. The Registrar chaired the meeting, which was attended by the Director of Food and Drug Services, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMOH&SW), the Managing Director and Deputy Managing Directors of the Society for Family Health (SFH), the Programme Director of PSN Foundation, and others.

PCN also participated in the 8th Nigeria Family Planning Conference held between 4-6 December 2024 in Abuja as well as the Global digital health forum held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 7-11 of December 2024



Furthermore, PCN attended the first stakeholders' meeting towards the development of the Nigeria Electronic Pharmacy Policy (E-pharmacy policy), organised by FMOH&SW with support from PSN Foundation, in Abuja between 8-10 December 2024.

PCN also participated in the monitoring and oversight visit to Community Pharmacies and Patent Medicine Shops engaged in the pilot project implemented by the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP). The visits took place from 14 – 21 December 2024.



Month under review

HUMAN RESOURCES

On the 12th of November, the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria successfully conducted our 2024 promotion exercise for senior staff at the PCN Head Office, Abuja.

We wish all colleagues involved the best of luck.



INSPECTION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

We attained ISO 9001:2015 Certification in January 2022, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to continuous quality improvement.

As this certification is valid for a period of three (3) years, PCN underwent a recertification audit by external auditors on 9-10 December 2024 to ensure that we continue to meet, maintain, and exceed the required standards.

We constantly strive to maintain excellence and continuously improve our operations and services.



Month under review

On 16 December 2024, at the PCN Head Office in Abuja, a delegation from the National Association of Polytechnic Students (NAPS), led by its National President, Comrade Ridwan Opeyemi Munirudeen, honoured our Registrar with the presentation of an award and a Certificate of Credence to the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria

We deeply appreciate this honour and remain committed to collaborating with relevant stakeholders to achieve our shared goals and enhance the standards of the pharmaceutical profession.

On 12 December 2024, the Registrar warmly received a team from NAPPMED FCT Chapter at the PCN Head Office.



GUIDELINES FOR COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS AGAINST REGULATORY DECISIONS

We wish to bring to the attention of our esteemed stakeholders that the PCN has published guidelines outlining the process for submitting complaints and appeals against regulatory decisions. These guidelines ensure transparency, fairness, and timely resolution of concerns raised by stakeholders while fostering accountability in the Council's regulatory role.

To access the guidelines, please visit our website at pcn.gov.ng. Click on the dropdown menu labelled "PCN" and select "Publications" to view the document and become acquainted with the guidelines.



COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR, DSS, FCT COMMAND

To build and strengthen relationships and collaboration with relevant stakeholders essential for the effective discharge of our regulatory mandate, the Registrar and his team paid a courtesy call on the Director of the Department of State Services (DSS), FCT Command, Mr. Isaac U. Chikere, fsi.

This visit took place on 20 December 2024.



As we usher in this New Year, the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN) wishes all stakeholders in the Nigerian Pharmaceutical industry a prosperous 2025.

May all our efforts be crowned with resounding success even as we work together to advance pharmaceutical care in Nigeria.

SIGNED

**PHARM IBRAHIM BABASHEHU AHMED, FPSN, FPCPHARM, FNAPHARM, FCAI, IION
REGISTRAR/CEO
PHARMACY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA**

