

# 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, I am delighted to welcome you to the month of March 2026. The first 2 months of this year has been quite eventful and our schedule at the registry for the month of March is even busier. Nevertheless, we remain committed to delivering excellent regulatory services to the Nigerian Pharmaceutical Industry even as we count on your unwavering support.

As we move further into the year, I wish to remind all practitioners and stakeholders that the March 31 deadline for the renewal of annual licences is fast approaching. I strongly encourage all Pharmacists and owners of pharmaceutical premises to complete their registration and licensing processes promptly via our online portal to avoid the application of late registration penalties in line with the requirement of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Act 2022.



**Pharm Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed FPSN FPCPharm**

**Registrar/CEO**

**Pharmacy Council of Nigeria**

# Month under review



## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Eight hundred and seven (807) fresh Pharmacy Graduands were inducted into the profession in the month of February from the following Universities:

- Madonna University Elele, Rivers State
- Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State
- University of Benin, Benin-City, Edo State
- University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State
- Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State

Supplementary induction was also done for two (2) graduands from Igbinedion University Okada (IUO), Edo State, and Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State.

## 2026 PEP (First Cycle)

The First Cycle Pre-registration Examination for Pharmacists (PEP) is scheduled to hold on 14 March 2026. Registration has commenced, and candidates who wish to register for the examination are advised to register through the PEP portal ([pep.pcnmcpd.com](http://pep.pcnmcpd.com)). Registration closes on 06 March 2026.



# Month under review

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### 2026 FPGOP (First Cycle)

The First Cycle 2026 Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Orientation Programme (FPGOP) is scheduled to hold from 12 April to 22 May 2026 at two (2) PCN designated centres namely: Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), Sokoto State (North) and Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Yaba, Lagos State (South). Prospective participants are hereby advised to visit the PCN website or the nearest PCN office for further enquiries. The deadline for submission of all application forms and relevant documents is Friday, 03 April 2026.



### Reaccreditation Visit

The PCN team paid a re-accreditation visit to the University of Ibadan (UI), Oyo State from 02 – 05 February 2026.



# Month under review

## PHARMACY PRACTICE

The PCN constituted a team to conduct inspection visits to the various hospital pharmacies in the FCT as part of its mandate to ensure that the minimum standards for hospital pharmacy practice for the assurance of pharmaceutical care are met by benchmarking PCN standards and requirements. We visited Federal Medical Centre, Abuja; African Medical Centre of Excellence (AMCE), Asokoro; National Assembly Clinic; among others. This exercise took place from the 09 - 13 February 2026.



## OP/CEP

In the month under review, Orientation Programme (OP) and Continuing Education Programme (CEP) were conducted for holders of PPMV license in the following states:

- Benue (10 February 2026)
- Katsina (11 February 2026)
- Kano (13 February 2026)



# Month under review



## PROGRAMMES COORDINATING DEPARTMENT

### Expanding HIV Service Access: Maisha Meds

On 3 February 2026, the PCN convened an engagement meeting with Maisha Meds at the Head Office in Abuja. The discussions explored collaborative opportunities on public health initiatives aimed at expanding access to HIV services within the private sector, particularly through community pharmacists.

### Professional Excellence and Capacity Building: CPACPI

An engagement was held on 17 February 2026 with the Community Pharmacists Assessment and Career Progression Institute (CPACPI). This meeting was aimed at seeking continued co-creation, implementation and collaboration with PCN in a mutually beneficial relationship in areas of capacity building, quality improvement, professional development, ethical practice, project implementation, resource mobilization, recognition and institutionalisation.



# Month under review



## Meeting with Jhpiego

On the same day, the Council hosted a consultative meeting with Jhpiego. The meeting aimed at seeking collaborative efforts with the PCN to assist in generating data for tracking stock control and identifying substandard and falsified antibiotics among the regulated stakeholders in the private sector in 6 pilot states.

## Advancing Health Equity: NHEC Engagement

Continuing with external engagements, the PCN participated in the National Health Equity Committee (NHEC) meeting on 20 February 2026 in Abuja, organised by Onebarrow International. The forum focused on developing strategic approaches to advance health equity by leveraging the regulatory mandates of health regulatory agencies in Nigeria.



# Month under review



## Meeting with SFH

On 24 February 2026, the Council met with the Society for Family Health (SFH) at the PCN Head Office to discuss strengthening financial sustainability for HIV prevention services and improving malaria "Test and Treat" in Community Pharmacies and Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMV) shops across 4 focal states in Nigeria: Lagos, Gombe, Kwara, and Anambra.



## PACS Project Review and Phase II Alignment

PCN convened an engagement meeting with the Promoting Accreditation for Community Health Services Project to review key outcomes from Phase I implementation and to align on the plans, priorities, and progress for Phase II. The meeting was held at the PCN Head Office on Friday, 27 February 2026.



# Month under review

## PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

### Regulatory Engagement: Xcene Research

On 24 February 2026, the Registrar received an introductory visit from the team at Xcene Research. During the engagement, the Xcene team presented an overview of their operations, identified areas of support, and sought regulatory guidance regarding their activities within the pharmaceutical sector. Xcene Research is an indigenous African Contract Research Organisation (CRO) dedicated to drug discovery, expanding clinical trial, and supply chain management within the pharmaceutical distribution system across Sub-Saharan Africa.



## INSPECTION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

### DMA Inspection

On 17 February 2026, the Zamfara Drugs and Medical Consumable Supply Management Agency was inspected towards its prospective registration and documentation as a State Drugs Distribution Centre (SDDC). We assessed the agency's adherence to the National Drug Distribution Guidelines (NDDG), ensuring the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain within the region.



# Month under review

## CWC Abia: Stakeholder Engagement

As part of ongoing efforts to sanitise the drug distribution system in Nigeria, the Registrar met with stakeholders involved in the development of the Coordinated Wholesale Centre (CWC) in Abia State on 19 February 2026. This project is being developed under the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Enyimba Pharmaceuticals and Allied Products Ltd.



## Management Review Meeting

On 19 February 2026, the Registry held its 9th Management Review Meeting at the Head Office. This bi-annual engagement provides a platform for Top Management to evaluate the PCN's Quality Management System (QMS). The review ensures the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness, while maintaining its alignment with the strategic direction of the Registry.



On the same day, the Registrar attended a meeting between Minister of Education, Minister of Defence and Registrars of MDCN, PCN and NMCN on the proposal of Ministry of Defence for the Establishment of College of Medicines & Health Sciences

## 2026 NAIP ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND CEOS FORUM

The PCN actively participated in the 2026 NAIP Economic Outlook and CEOs forum held on the 4th of February 2026. The conference provided a platform for engagement with critical stakeholders and leaders in the Nigerian Pharmaceutical Industry and the national economy at large. The outcomes of the robust engagement are helping to shape policies which would be consistent with the realities in the Nigerian business environment.



**I thank you for your continued dedication to excellence and professional integrity.**

**PCN is indeed grateful for the support and feedback received from our dear stakeholders**

**We on our end, will remain committed to ensuring the provision of sustainable pharmaceutical regulatory services (personnel, premises, and practice) for the well-being of the populace. Together, let us make March a month of progress and results.**

**I wish you all a fruitful and blessed month.**

**SIGNED**

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