

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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- Pharmacy Practice activities and more

WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the management and staff of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria, I bring you warm felicitations and greetings. I rejoice with our Christian stakeholders as they commemorate the holy week which will culminate in the Easter celebrations while I equally felicitate with our Muslim colleagues on the recently concluded Eid- al-Fitr Celebrations. I pray that both holy celebrations will usher our dear

profession and country into an era of unprecedented abundance and prosperity.

As we commence the second quarter of the year, I encourage all colleagues to intensify their efforts towards building a pharmacy industry we can collectively take pride in. In line with our usual practice, the Council's senior management will be holding our quarterly strategic review sessions to assess performance against our objectives. These sessions will enable us to draw lessons from both our achievements and challenges, and to make the necessary adjustments to ensure that the profession—and ultimately the average Nigerian—is better served.



Pharm Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed FPSN FPCPharm

Registrar/CEO

Pharmacy Council of Nigeria

Month under review

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2026 FPGOP (First Cycle)

The 2026 First Cycle of the 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), Yaba, Lagos State (South). Prospective participants are hereby advised to visit the PCN website (www.pcn.gov.ng) or the nearest PCN office (addresses are available on our website) for further enquiries. The deadline for submission of all application forms and relevant documents is Thursday, April 02, 2026.



Induction

The month of March recorded the induction and oath-taking ceremony of three hundred and eight (308) fresh Pharmacy Graduands into the profession from University of Ibadan, Oyo State; University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State; Gregory University, Uturu, Abia State and University of Jos, Plateau State. The PCN extends a warm welcome to our colleagues and hope for excellence and innovation in pharmaceutical service delivery.



Month under review



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Monitoring Visit

The PCN team paid a monitoring visit to Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State from 01 – 04 March 2026.

2026 PEP (First Cycle)

We successfully conducted the 2026 First Cycle Pre-registration Examination for Pharmacists (PEP) on 14 March 2026.

Accreditation/Advisory Visit

Following that, on 23 -26 March 2026, the PCN team paid an accreditation visit to the University of Jos, Jos, Plateau State for the purpose of accreditation of the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (PharmD) programme. An advisory visit was paid to Plateau State University, Bokkos, Plateau State from 29 – 31 March 2026.

ENFORCEMENT

As part of the effort to sanitize the drug distribution system, PCN has embarked on surveillance/ enforcement activities on the Mararaba/ Karu axis(boundary of FCT and Nassarawa State). The activity commenced on Monday, March 30 and would be conducted till Thursday, April 2, 2026. The goal is to clampdown on unregistered premises



Month under review

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

Mid-Term Review of the PCN 5-Year Strategic Plan

We successfully concluded a four-day stakeholders' engagement and mid-term review workshop for our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. Held in Keffi from 24 to 27 March 2026, the event was organised in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Nigeria and relevant partners.

The workshop served as a critical platform for reflection and collaboration, aimed at strengthening the regulation of pharmacy education and practice across the country. The plan's development was the result of an inclusive and consultative design process. It integrated insights and had multi-stakeholder consultations from technical working groups, professional bodies, development partners, and regulatory collaborators. This collaborative spirit continued throughout the Keffi workshop, where participants reviewed progress made since the plan's inception, identified implementation gaps, and proposed strategies to bolster the Council's seven core goals.

A central theme of the workshop was the alignment of the PCN's objectives with broader national and global health policies. Stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals and the Health Sector Renewal Initiative (HSRI), emphasizing that a well-regulated pharmaceutical sector is essential for a healthy populace.

Present at the review meeting was the Pharm (Hajiya) Wosilat Giwa, FPSN, Chairperson, PCN Governing Council; Pharm. Ayuba Tanko, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN); Dr Tayo Hamzat, WHO Nigeria; Pharm James Yakubu, representing Director, Food and Drug Services, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; Prof. Lere Baale, CEO Business School Netherlands International (BSNI); Pharm. Cyril Usifoh, Immediate Past President of PSN; PSN Foundation, Society for Family Health; also PCN management and staff.

Images from Mid Year Review Event



Month under review

INSPECTION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

MOU Signing with Evansville Healthcare Foundation Worldwide

On 5 March 2026, the PCN formalised a partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Evansville Healthcare Foundation Worldwide (EHFW), a non-governmental organisation dedicated to drug abuse prevention, advocacy, and control.

The MoU establishes a structured framework for cooperation between the PCN and EHFW. Both organisations will collaborate on the planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Programmes designed to combat drug abuse, misuse, and dependency across Nigeria. This unified approach will aid in strengthening community awareness on the dangers of drug abuse and misuse, promote rational drug use and ethical pharmacy practice, support youth, vulnerable populations, and high-risk groups with preventive interventions, among others.

CWC Gombe

On 10 March 2026, we hosted a delegation of stakeholders from Gombe State to discuss the establishment of a Coordinated Wholesale Centre (CWC).

The Council considers this a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to sanitise Nigeria's drug distribution system. By transitioning open markets into regulated environments, the CWC initiative ensures that the pharmaceutical landscape remains professional, secure, and transparent.

The PCN remains steadfast in its commitment to providing a regulated environment for drug distribution. This development is crucial for eliminating the circulation of substandard products and providing the assurance of quality pharmaceutical services to the people of Gombe State and the nation at large.



Month under review

PROGRAMMES COORDINATING DEPARTMENT

Biannual Meeting of the TB Public-Private Mix

We participated in the 2026 First Biannual Meeting of the Tuberculosis Public-Private Mix (PPM) Steering Committee held 01 – 04 March 2026 in Abuja organised by the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme (NTBLCP) and supported by Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN). The objectives of the meeting were to update the committee on the TB PPM implementation status in Nigeria, provide the PPM Steering Committee with progress updates on the implementation of resolutions, address challenges hindering effective TB PPM interventions at both national and state levels, and discuss increasing cost of incentive in PPM implementation. Strategies on how to effectively engage the Private Pharmaceutical Sector were also discussed.



Stakeholders Engagement on Malaria Prevention

We also participated in the two-day Malaria Stakeholders Engagement and Dissemination Workshop, organised by the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) in collaboration with Malaria Consortium. Held in Abuja from 5 - 6 March 2026, the workshop provided a platform to share findings from studies across the malaria prevention and case management pipeline, while also examining market constraints in malaria prevention and treatment based on these insights.



Step Down Training for CPs and PPMVs

In collaboration with the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), the PCN participated in a two-day step-down training for Community Pharmacists (CPs) and Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMV) on malaria case management in Jigawa, Yobe, Taraba, Adamawa and Kaduna States. The training was aimed at training CPs and PPMVs on improving malaria care services in the community via the test, treat, and track approach and also the identification and referral of suspected TB cases.

Malaria



The month of March has been a testament to the Registry's dedication to regulatory excellence and systemic reform. From the successful mid-term review of our Strategic Plan in Keffi to the ongoing sanitisation of drug distribution channels through the CWC initiative, we continue to lay the groundwork for a more resilient pharmaceutical sector.

As we transition into the second quarter of 2026, our priority continues to be the strengthening of regulatory systems that underpin our national commitment to Universal Health Coverage. I extend my profound gratitude to our dedicated staff, stakeholders, and partners for their collaborative spirit. Together, we shall continue to safeguard public health and ensure that quality pharmaceutical services remain accessible to every Nigerian.

Have a blessed and productive month!

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed', written in a cursive style.

SIGNED

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

