

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 wish you all a happy new month. As we step into the month of June, I am pleased to share significant updates that reflect our commitment to advancing the cause of the Pharmaceutical industry in Nigeria.



Pharm Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed FPSN FPCPharm

Registrar/CEO

Pharmacy Council of Nigeria

We thank you for all the support we have received since the beginning of this year. The first 5 months of this year has been quite eventful and our schedule at the registry for the month of June 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..

Month under review



PCN Accreditation Team to the Faculty of Pharmacy, OAU, Ile-Ife on a courtesy call on the CMD, OAUTH, Prof. John



The PCN Accreditation Team to the University of Ilorin in a group photograph with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Technology, who represented the Vice Chancellor and the Management staff of the University during a courtesy call.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Accreditation and Verification Visit

The PCN team conducted accreditation visits to Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, and the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, from 17–20 May and 20–23 May 2026, respectively, for the accreditation of their Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) programmes. The Council also conducted a verification visit to the University of Calabar, Cross River State, from 7–9 May 2026.

INDUCTION

Twenty-eight (28) pharmacy graduands from Gombe State University, Gombe State, were inducted into the pharmacy profession during the month of May 2026. In addition, a supplementary induction ceremony was conducted for fourteen (14) graduands from Kaduna State University, Kaduna State.

These ambassadors are welcome to the pharmacy family, and we hope for a rewarding professional journey marked by excellence, integrity and service to humanity.



Month under review

FPGOP FIRST CYCLE

The first cycle of the 2026 Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Orientation Programme (FPGOP), a six-week programme conducted at two PCN-designated centres, successfully concluded on 22 May 2026. The centres were the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Sokoto State (Northern Centre), and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos, Idi-Araba, Lagos State (Southern Centre).

PHARMACY PRACTICE

Meeting with EMGE Resources

On 7 May 2026, the PCN hosted representatives of EMGE Resources to discuss potential areas of collaboration and regulatory engagement.

During the meeting, the company presented their healthcare platform used to facilitate medicine requisitions between pharmacists and distributors while the Registrar emphasized the importance of regulatory compliance, transparency, and alignment with the National Drug Distribution Guidelines (NDDG), while also highlighting PCN's ongoing achievements in e-pharmacy regulation and coordinated wholesale centre initiatives. It was agreed that the company would be engaged on further discussions and guidance on regulatory requirements.



Month under review

ENFORCEMENT

The PCN, through its National Enforcement Team, carried out an enforcement exercise in Oyo State during the month of May 2026. The exercise covered the following Local Government Areas (LGAs): Ona Ara, Oluyole, Ibadan North, Akinyele, Lagelu, Egbeda, Ido, Ogbomoso South, Iseyin, Afijio, Ogbomoso North, Oyo West and Oyo East.

The exercise was aimed at ensuring compliance with the provisions of the PCN Act and relevant regulatory standards governing pharmacy practice and the operation of pharmaceutical premises in Nigeria.



The outcome of the exercise was as follows:

- Total number of premises visited: 590 (164 Pharmacies, 170 Patent Medicine Shops [PMS], 256 Illegal Outlets)
- Total number of premises sealed: 397 (60 Pharmacies, 81 PMSs, 256 Illegal Outlets)
- Total number of compliance directives issued: 5

The exercise underscores PCN's commitment to safeguarding public health by promoting compliance with established standards and eliminating illegal pharmaceutical operations from the distribution chain.



Month under review

PROGRAMMES COORDINATING DEPARTMENT

PCN Participates in National Self-Care Guidelines Review Meeting

PCN participated in the Second Stakeholders' Review Meeting on the National Guidelines on Self-Care for Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health, held in Calabar from 4–8 May 2026. The meeting aimed to review the zero draft of the National Guidelines, assess the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent and Elderly Health (RMNCAEH) Self-Care Strategy, and inaugurate the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the forthcoming Self-Care National Conference.

PCN Advances PRIME Project Implementation in Kaduna State

In collaboration with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), PCN continued the implementation of the Private Medicine Retail Initiative for Malaria Elimination (PRIME) Project in Kaduna State. The project is designed to strengthen malaria case management among Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMVs). Building on the success of the 2024 pilot phase, which improved adherence to the “test-before-treat” protocol through provider training and conditional subsidies, a cluster-based training programme for PPMVs was conducted from 7–9 May 2026 across three geographical clusters to support effective project rollout.

Amref International University Delegation Pays Courtesy Visit to PCN

On 7 May 2026, PCN received a delegation from Amref International University, Kenya, on a courtesy visit to the Registrar/CEO. Discussions centred on issues of mutual benefit to both institutions.

PCN Attends Dissemination of AMPLI-PPHI Research Findings

PCN participated in the dissemination meeting on the implementation research findings of the Accelerating Measurable Progress and Leveraging Investments for Postpartum Haemorrhage Impact (AMPLI-PPHI) Project, held in Abuja on 25 May 2026. The project, implemented by Jhpiego, presented findings on the use of heat-stable carbetocin, tranexamic acid, and calibrated drapes as PPH interventions in some selected states.



Month under review

INSPECTION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

QMS Surveillance Audit

We successfully completed our first Surveillance Audit following ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) recertification in January 2024.

The two-day audit, conducted by external auditors from NECA Global Certification Limited from 11–12 May 2026, assessed the Council's processes, systems and compliance frameworks in line with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard. The successful outcome of the exercise reaffirms PCN's commitment to continual improvement, operational excellence and adherence to global best practices in quality management.



Manufacturing Premises Inspection

We conducted inspections for re-granting of licences to selected pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in Ogun State from 18–22 May 2026.

The inspection exercise was conducted to verify continued compliance with PCN standards on good manufacturing practice, facility infrastructure, documentation, personnel requirements, and product quality systems. Findings from the inspection will guide regulatory decisions on license renewal and reinforce PCN's mandate to ensure only safe, quality-assured medicines are available to the public.



Month under review

PCN Highlights Regulatory Standards at Nigeria Supply Chain Summit 2026

The Registrar/CEO, PCN, was represented by Pharm. Victor C. Anagwu, Consultant Pharmacist, at the Nigeria Supply Chain Summit 2026, organised by the African Resource Centre for Excellence in Supply Chain Management (ARC_ESM) in Lagos on 12–13 May 2026.

The summit brought together Captains of Industries, Policy Makers, CEOs, Regulators and Executive Secretaries of the State Drugs Management Agencies (DMAs) across the country to discuss the Group Purchasing Framework (GPF) as a strategy to improve the procurement, distribution and availability of safe, quality and affordable medicines and health commodities in health facilities across value chain to the last mile, while supporting local pharmaceutical manufacturing.

In his keynote address titled “Standards, Innovation and the Role of Regulation in Enabling Market-Shaping Partnerships”, the Registrar emphasised the importance of maintaining regulatory standards across the pharmaceutical supply chain. He reiterated PCN’s commitment to ensuring that medicines are procured, stored and distributed only through licensed premises and qualified personnel, while promoting risk-based regulation, quality assurance and patient safety. He concluded by urging stakeholders to link the group medicine procurement to local manufacturers to improve the capacity of the nation's local manufacturing industry, to enable the country achieve its desire of 70% locally manufactured medicines by 2030; and encouraged the Group Purchasing Organisations (GPOs) to measure outcomes by tracking products, price, quality and patient health outcomes.



Month under review

LEGAL MATTERS

Court Upholds PCN's Regulatory Mandate

The Federal High Court 1, Calabar Judicial Division, in Suit No. FHC/CA/FHR/39/2025: Isidora Kamchukwube Ezea & Ors. v. Pharmacy Council of Nigeria & 2 Ors., dismissed the fundamental rights suit brought against PCN and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) by Ezea Isidora Kamchukwube and her business associates, identified as illegal medicine dealers. The plaintiffs alleged that their premises were unlawfully sealed during a PCN enforcement exercise in Cross River State in 2025.

Delivering judgment on Thursday, 14 May 2026, Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu held that the applicants failed to establish any violation of their fundamental rights, affirming that PCN acted lawfully in line with its statutory mandate to regulate the practice of pharmacy and protect Nigerians from substandard pharmaceutical services.

Notably, the 1st Applicant, Isidora Kamchukwube Ezea, is the operator of illegal and unregistered pharmaceutical premises in Calabar and is presently standing criminal trial before the same court in Suit No. FHC/CA/76C/2025: FRN v. Ezea Isidora Kamchukwube & 3 Ors., which is slated for judgment on the 1st day of June 2026.

This judgment strengthens PCN's resolve to continue its regulatory oversight in line with its statutory mandate, ensuring that pharmacy practice in Nigeria meets the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

Regulations Review

The Registry is undergoing a review of six draft Regulations – Satellite Pharmacy Regulations, Chain Retail Pharmacy Regulations, Veterinary Pharmacy Regulations, Herbal Pharmacy Regulations, Hospital Pharmacy Regulations, and GSDP Regulations – to cater for emerging trends in Pharmacy practice and ensure alignment with current realities and global best practices. These draft regulations will be subjected to extensive stakeholders engagement in accordance with standard procedures for making regulations.

Month under review

PVAC NATIONAL COORDINATOR PAYS WORKING VISIT TO PCN

The Registrar was honoured to receive the National Coordinator of the Presidential Initiative for Unlocking the Healthcare Value Chain (PVAC), Dr Abdu Mukhtar, and his team at the PCN Head Office, Abuja, on 7 May 2026.

During the visit, Dr Mukhtar outlined the structure, mandate and strategic objectives of the Initiative, highlighting PCN's critical role in achieving its goals. He also noted that the Registrar serves as a member of the PVAC Governing Board by appointment of the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Both parties identified pharmaceutical compounding as a key area for collaboration, with the Registrar emphasising its potential to improve access to affordable medicines across public and private health institutions in Nigeria.

The visit concluded with an exchange of souvenirs and the presentation of a congratulatory card to the Registrar in recognition of his recent reappointment for a second four-year tenure. PCN reaffirms its commitment to strategic partnerships that strengthen the healthcare value chain and improve health outcomes for Nigerians.



Month under review



NAIP CONFERENCE

The Registrar attended the National Conference of the Association of Industrial Pharmacists of Nigeria (NAIP), themed “Collaboration and Innovation to Build Local Solutions for the Future of the Nigerian Pharmaceutical Industry”, held in Ilorin from 3–8 May 2026.

MAIDEN OPPAN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

PCN participated in the maiden edition of the Biennial Scientific Conference of the Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners Association of Nigeria (OPPAN), held from 11–13 May 2026.

The three-day conference brought together oncology pharmacy practitioners and other stakeholders to discuss emerging issues and advancements in oncology pharmacy practice. A major highlight of the event was the unveiling of the OPPAN Harmonised Oncology Pharmacy Practice Manual, aimed at promoting standardised and quality oncology pharmacy services across the country.



ENGAGEMENT WITH ACPN NEC

The Registrar attended the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (ACPN) following an invitation to interface with the Association's leadership. The engagement provided an opportunity to discuss key operational issues affecting pharmacy practice, particularly matters relating to Pharmaceutical Inspection Committee (PIC) activities and other regulatory concerns. In a show of professional solidarity, the ACPN National Executive Council presented a congratulatory card to the Registrar in recognition of the renewal of his appointment, as announced by the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, CON, on 10 April 2026.



The activities highlighted in this edition reflect the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria's continued commitment to effective regulation, quality assurance, professional development and stakeholder engagement. As we move forward, the Council remains dedicated to strengthening pharmacy practice and regulation in Nigeria.

Thank you.

SIGNED

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