

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Welcome Message
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- Pharmacy Practice activities and more

WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN), I welcome you to this edition of our newsletter, reporting on the PCN's key activities throughout September 2026. As we usher in the month of October 2026, we join the nation in celebrating Nigeria's 66th Independence Anniversary.

Happy Independence Day!

This edition captures our continued efforts across education and training, enforcement, inspection, monitoring and quality assurance, pharmacy practice, and strategic partnerships, all in furtherance of the Council's mandate to safeguard public health through the effective regulation of pharmacy practice in Nigeria. We invite you to read on and stay informed of our ongoing work.



Pharm Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed FPSN FPCPharm

Registrar/CEO

Pharmacy Council of Nigeria

Month under review



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Induction/Oath-Taking of Pharmacy

Graduands

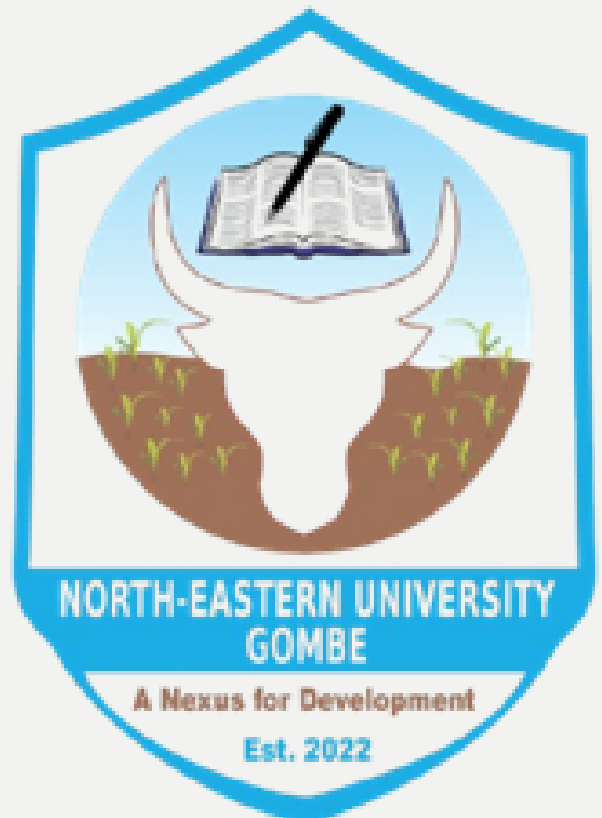
During September 2026, the Council inducted one hundred and sixty-three (163) fresh Pharmacy graduands from Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, and Bayero University, Kano State. A supplementary induction ceremony was also held for fifteen (15) graduands from Delta State University, Delta State. A warm welcome to our new colleagues.

Advisory Visit

An advisory visit was conducted to North-Eastern University, Gombe, Gombe State, from 28 to 30 September 2026.

PEP Second Cycle

The second cycle Pre-Registration Examination for Pharmacists (PEP) is scheduled for 24 October 2026. Candidates wishing to register are advised to do so via the PEP portal (pep.pcnmcpd.com); registration closes on 19 October 2026.



Month under review

ENFORCEMENT

The PCN National Enforcement Team conducted enforcement exercises in Kano State and Delta State, from 7 to 11 September and 21 to 24 September 2026, respectively.

Kano State

·LGAs visited: 23 (Bichi, Tsanyawa, Gwarzo, Wudil, Gaya, Ajingi, Kiru, Tudun Wada, Ungogo, Bebeji, Garun Mallam, Kura, Dawakin Kudu, Dawakin Tofa, Takai, Rimin Gado, Bagwai, Shanono, Kabo, Gezawa, Gabasawa, Dambatta, Makoda, Minjibir, Warawa, Rano, Kibiya, Bunkure).

·Total premises visited: 1,153 (16 pharmacies, 700 patent medicine shops, and 437 illegal outlets)

·Total premises sealed: 797 (8 pharmacies, 352 patent medicine shops, and 437 illegal outlets)

·Compliance directives issued: 6, to premises with regulatory deficiencies requiring corrective action



Delta State

·LGAs visited: 5 (Oshimili North, Oshimili South, Ika North-East, Ika South, and Ndokwa West).

·Total premises visited: 930 (191 pharmacies, 400 patent medicine shops, and 339 illegal outlets)

·Total premises sealed: 733 (81 pharmacies, 313 patent medicine shops, and 339 illegal outlets)

·Compliance directives issued: 7 (2 Pharmacies, 5 patent medicine shops)



Month under review

INSPECTION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

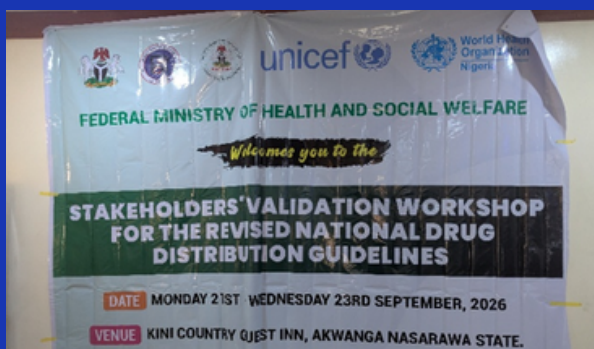
QMS Internal Audit

The Council's 2026 Quality Management System (QMS) Internal Audit was conducted from 15 to 16 September 2026, to assess conformity with ISO 9001:2015 requirements, monitor adherence to the reviewed Risk Register by process owners, and evaluate the implementation of departmental and unit work plans and quality objectives. The audit also provided an opportunity to identify areas of compliance and gaps, and to determine the improvement actions necessary for the effective implementation and continual improvement of PCN's QMS.



NDDG 3rd Edition Review

From 21 to 23 September 2026, PCN participated in a three-day stakeholders' meeting to validate the final draft of the 3rd Edition of the National Drug Distribution Guidelines (NDDG), held at Kini Country Guest Inn, Akwanga, Nasarawa State. The meeting brought together representatives of relevant Federal and State institutions, regulatory agencies, professional bodies, development partners and other stakeholders to review and validate the final draft of the NDDG, align it with relevant national documents, review its strategic implementation and develop strategies for successful implementation. Key stakeholders in attendance included representatives of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Presidential Initiative for Unlocking the Healthcare Value Chain (PVAC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Nigeria Customs Service, State Ministries of Health, Drug Management Agencies, Medipool, among others. Key areas of discussion included strengthening coordination within the pharmaceutical distribution system, improving traceability, quality assurance and pharmacovigilance, and ensuring that the revised Guidelines are practical, implementable and enforceable.



Month under review

Stakeholders' Engagement on Dalan Gyada Market Closure

Following the National Enforcement Exercise conducted in Kano State from 7 to 11 September 2026, the PCN had a stakeholders' engagement meeting at its Head Office on 18 September 2026 with stakeholders from Kano Pharmaceutical Dealers and Partners, led by its Chairman and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), on the recent closure of the Dalan Gyada Market (Groundnut Pyramid) along Katsina Road, Kano State. The Council provided regulatory direction to the stakeholders on the matter.



Africa Health Tech Summit 2026

PCN is currently participating at the 5th Edition of the Africa Health Tech Summit 2026 holding at Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda from 30 September to 2 October 2026, themed “Wellness for all — powered by intelligent health systems.” This event has the goal of Investing in Innovation programmes in Africa, bringing together Africa’s leading health tech companies with global partners to accelerate commercialization and impact. The PCN’s participation is anchored on the platform of PCN’s partnership with Sproxil Nigeria Limited, targeted at strengthening Electronic Pharmacy regulation in Nigeria.



Month under review

PHARMACY PRACTICE

Hospital Pharmacy Inspection

The PCN constituted an inspection team to conduct inspection and accreditation visits to hospital pharmacies across the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, as part of its statutory mandate to ensure compliance with the minimum standards for hospital pharmacy practice and promote the provision of quality pharmaceutical care.

The exercise was aimed at assessing the extent of compliance of hospital pharmacies with the standards and requirements established by the Council and was conducted from 21 to 25 September 2026 across healthcare facilities within the FCT.



Month under review

PROGRAMMES COORDINATION

PCN participated in the IntegratE 2.0 Dissemination Meetings held across project states, including Borno, Nasarawa, Niger, Sokoto, Kaduna, Yobe, Gombe, Bauchi, Lagos and Kano. The meetings shared insights into the project's gains, lessons learned, challenges, and sustainability plans. In collaboration with the IntegratE project, PCN piloted the 3-Tier Accreditation framework in these states, while also building the capacity of Community Pharmacists (CPs) and Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMVVs) to provide Family Planning and basic Primary Health Care (PHC) services.



On 14 September 2026, we held an engagement meeting with Tiko at the PCN Head Office, Abuja, to discuss implementation plans of the project in the FCT and Nasarawa State. The initiative seeks to foster the resilience of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by addressing the critical “Triple Threats” – early pregnancy, Human Immuno Virus (HIV), and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) – implementing CPs and PPMVVs as the providers of this service.



Month under review

Furthermore, PCN participated in the PPMV Training on Presbyopia and the Dispensing of Reading Glasses, held on 1 September 2026, in Kaduna State. The training was organised under the National Eye, Ear and Sensory Functions Health Programme (NESHP), with support from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), as part of the Effective Spectacle Coverage Initiative Nigeria (ESCIN) Jigi Bola 2.0.

We had an engaging one-day stakeholders' meeting with the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria Foundation (PSNF) to present research findings on Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate-Subcutaneous (DMPA-SC) Self-Injection (SI) by Tier 1 Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMVVs), held at Ibeto Hotel, Abuja on 7 September 2026. The meeting presented the key findings from research conducted in Kaduna, Kano, Lagos and Nasarawa States, and worked towards a stakeholder consensus on the way forward.

Also, we took part in the Decentralized Delivery of Generic Lenacapavir (LEN): Nigeria Co-Design Workshop organised by the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) on the 9 to 10 September 2026. The workshop focused on strategies for expanding access to generic Lenacapavir, a long-acting injectable HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) product expected to be available in the generic form by 2027.

On 11 September 2026, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Solina Center for International Development and Research Ltd/GTE (SCIDaR) on strategic collaboration in the design, integration and operation of a Digital Finance Hub (DFH) for licensed pharmaceutical entities. The signing took place at the PCN Head Office, Abuja. The DFH aims to improve the quality of Primary Health Care (PHC) delivery in Nigeria by making businesses in the health sector, beginning with Community Pharmacists (CPs) and Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMVVs), regulatory compliant, bankable and growth-ready.



Month under review

Still in September, PCN participated in the National Dissemination Workshop organised by Research for Development (R4D), held in Abuja on 22 September 2026. The main objective of the workshop was to present the findings of Access PDC diagnostics from Bauchi and Nasarawa States to a national audience of government, donor and private sector stakeholders. Participants at the workshop included representatives of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Pharmacy Council of Nigeria, National Product Supply Chain Management Programme (NPSCMP), PVAC, SWAP, GFF, Gates Foundation, among others.

In collaboration with the SWIFT Project, we conducted a three-day Refresher Training of Trainers (ToT) for selected Tutors from Colleges of Health Technology (CHT)/Schools of Health Technology (SHT) in Kano State, from 24 to 26 September 2026. The training prepared the tutors to deliver the PCN Mandatory Entry Point Training Programme (MEPTP) for PPMVs in their respective institutions.

Finally on Programmes Coordination, we attended a STRIPE HIV National Stakeholders' Meeting held on 26 September 2026 in Abuja. The meeting, attended by several health professional regulatory bodies, discussed ways to include selected STRIPE HIV learning modules as accredited modules for Mandatory Continuing Professional Development for healthcare professionals in Nigeria.



Month under review



PMG-MAN 8TH PHARMA EXPO

The PCN participated in the 8th Nigeria Pharma Manufacturers Expo (NPME 2026) which took place on September 28–29, 2026, at the Harbour Point Event Centre in Victoria Island, Lagos. The event was organized by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (PMG-MAN), with a focus on advancing local production and health sovereignty. The theme for this year's edition was Regional Manufacturing: Advancing Africa's Pharma and Life-Science Sovereignty through Localization

APPMAN CONVENTION

PCN was in participation at the 2026 Conference and Exhibition (Coal City 2026) of the Association of Pharmaceutical Products Marketers of Nigeria (APPMAN) themed "Role Definition: Clarifying Boundaries between Distributors, Wholesalers, Retailers and Manufacturers", held in Enugu from 24 to 26 September 2026.



Month under review

WPD 2026 – FCT CELEBRATION

The Registrar was the Keynote Speaker at the 2026 World Pharmacists Day event organised by the PSN FCT Chapter in Abuja on 25 September, under the global theme "Empowering Pharmacists for Healthier Futures," emphasizing the importance of equipping pharmacists with the requisite knowledge, skills, recognition and institutional support to strengthen health systems and respond effectively to evolving healthcare demands, including demographic shifts, the rising burden of non-communicable diseases, digital transformation, and climate-related pressures on service delivery.



NAPPSA 2026

The Registrar served as a panelist at the 20th Annual Nigerian Association of Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists in the Americas (NAPPSA) Scientific Conference and Exposition, held at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Center, United States of America (USA), where he delivered a presentation titled "Patient Safety and Shared Risk: Rethinking Roles, Responsibility and Governance across Professional Boundaries."



WORKING VISIT BY DFDS TO THE PCN

The Council was delighted to host the Director, Food and Drugs Services, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Mrs Adeola Olufowobi-Yusuf, mni, on a working visit to the PCN Head Office on 25 September 2026 — the first of its kind. Discussions centred on strengthening the existing collaboration and partnership between both institutions.



This edition reflects the Council's sustained commitment to advancing pharmacy practice, strengthening regulatory compliance, and building strategic partnerships in furtherance of public health in Nigeria. We remain grateful to our esteemed stakeholders, partners and staff for their continued support and collaboration.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to sharing further updates in subsequent editions.

Thank you.

SIGNED

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