



PHARM COUNCIL NEWS

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The Half Year Overview

The year has been hectic and a lot has happened on the socio-economic front. Council is aware of the challenges the practitioners are facing in their quest to provide quality pharmaceutical and optometry care to the population of Zimbabwe. Notwithstanding the challenges that are being experienced in the operating environment, Council continues to implore all registered practitioners to execute their mandate professionally and continue maintaining the highest professional integrity in safeguarding and promoting the public's health. Council has continued with its stakeholder engagement by involving all registered practitioners and professional associations for input and comments on issues regarding policy formulation in relation to regulations. Currently, Council is consulting and seeking input from stakeholders on the use of social media as well as the introduction of specialist registers. The input received from stakeholders on the review of professional conduct regulations is receiving attention from Council.

To be in tandem with the concept of ease of doing business and one stop shop, Council is in the process of developing a number of online applications to assist practitioners to transact with Council without physical visits to Council's offices. Practitioners are encouraged to make use of the Council website and Facebook accounts to share and access information.

Highlights on Practice Related Activities

During the period, January to September 2018, Council has processed sixty-seven (67) applications for verification of compliance with the provisions of section 124 (2)(a) or (b) of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. Ninety-one (91) retail pharmacies and five (5) optometry practices were approved for registrations in terms of the provisions of section 103 of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. The bulk of the approved pharmacies were not new premises but merely changing ownership due to various factors. It is also important to note that pharmacies and optometry health institutions are skewed in the major cities and towns. The rural areas are still under serviced in terms of pharmaceutical and optometry services, as such the Council continue to encourage opening of health facilities in such marginalized areas to improve on health access and equity.

Eighty-two [82] pre-registration pharmacists were transferred onto the pharmacists registers upon completion of pre-registration training. Council is impressed with the uptake by practitioners who applied to for being pre-registration pharmacist's supervisors. The same trend has also been noted on applications for health institutions for accreditation as Designated Health Institutions (DHIs). Thirty eight [38] practitioners were accredited as pre-registration supervisors and thirty two [32] health institutions as DHIs. Applications for registrations for additional qualifications from pharmacy technicians were considered and approved with most of them having acquired degrees in purchasing and supply chain management. The development has been noted as positive and more are encouraged to take up further studies to keep abreast with the current trends.

The Council is saddened to report that there has being a sharp increase in the number of misconduct cases brought to the attention of Council. The majority of the cases involve poor supervision, selling unregistered and expired medicines and procuring of medicines from unregistered suppliers. Practitioners are encouraged to adhere to the standards and regulations governing their professions.

Council Registers as At 21 September 2018

Council, on 27 April 2018 gazetted the names of practitioners erased from the respective registers due to non-payment of annual fees. This exercise resulted in the erasure of four hundred and ten [410] pharmacists, two hundred and eighty five [285] pharmacy technicians and twenty three [23] optometrists. Practitioners not paid up by June 2018 shall have their names removed from the respective registers before the year end. The list of names of practitioners who are active and inactive (all categories) is available on the Council website, www.pcz.co.zw under **Registration Requirements**. Practitioners are encouraged to visit the Council website to verify their registration status and for those they intend to engage for employment. As at 1 October 2018 the Council registers had the following active entries;

PROFESSION	October 2018	% of Registers
Pharmacists	1,401	70.8%
Pharmacy Technicians	493	24.9%
Optometrists	70	3.5%
Dispensing Opticians	10	0.5%
Hearing Aid Specialists	5	0.3%
Orthoptists	-	
TOTAL	1,979	

Scope of Practice and Specialist Registers

During the period, January to September 2018 Council sanctioned that the optometrists and dispensing opticians deliberate on their scope of practices with the view of ensuring that the two professions continue to complement each other in the provisions of quality eye care services. The two professions were to ensure that each category practise their respective professions within acceptable scopes and standards.

The Council is exploring the possibility of introducing specialist registers. The first part of this exercise is to enumerate the post basic qualifications held by practitioners then match them to specialist practise. In this regard we kindly request all practitioners with qualifications registrable onto the appropriate specialist registers to submit such qualifications for verification by Council.

Pharmacists Council Of Zimbabwe Council Meetings Schedule for 2018

COMMITTEE	Month and Date of Meeting											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Council		22			31			30			29	
Executive Committee	25			26			26			25		
Practice Control Committee	11	8	15	5	17	14	5	16	13	4	15	
Education and Liaison Committee		1			3			2			1	
Business and Finance Committee		15		12			12			11		
Preliminary Inquiry Committee	18			19			19			18		
Disciplinary Committee			20			21			25		6	
Examination Board	15						4					
Exam Board Sub Com				4						15		
Qualifying Examination	26			27			27			26		
Audit and Risk Management		13			10							

Council Contact Details.....

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Council Members

Mr E R Chiro [Chairperson], Mr D Ndiweni [Vice Chairperson]
Other members: Ms A O Chirewa, Mr J Kawara, Ms G N Mahlangu, Mr G Mandizvidza,
 Ms T Moyo, Mr C N Mtuwa, Mr E Mujuru, Mr J P Mutizwa, Mr I R Nkomo, Prof D Tagwireyi