



PHARM COUNCIL NEWS

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Message from the Council Chairman



Council Chairman: Mr Erick Chiro

I hope I find you all well in the second month of 2017. It is our hope that the year will be fruitful despite the prevailing unstable economic environment. Council will continue coming up with policies, regulations and programmes that contribute positively to the

health of the Zimbabweans and ease the way of doing business for practitioners. During the year, Council will be engaging practitioners in the move to align the current regulations to globally acceptable standards. It is also the plan of Council to be visible to the public and it will partner with the professional associations in making the public aware of its roles and responsibilities and that of the professionals it regulates.

As part of its corporate social responsibility, Council will support pharmacy and optometry students initiated activities. Through pre service training and mentoring programmes, Council will be ensuring that students are adequately exposed to the rules and regulations that govern the professions.

Council continues to encourage practitioners to engage whenever there are issues they feel should be dealt with and also proffering solutions to other issues which may be topical and relevant during the period.

Council would like to implore practitioners to assist each other by raising red flags where there is a possibility of a practitioner incapacitation or unfit to practice. Council has a committee which assists practitioners manage their situations to avoid potential unwanted life changing and taking consequences.

Council wishes you well in all your endeavours and thank you for your continued support and co-operation and look forward to a fruitful working relationship for the betterment of the population of Zimbabwe.

From the Registrar's Desk



Mr Alois Karonga: PCZ Registrar

The Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe's mandate is to promote public health and safety. In order to discharge its mandate, the Council is guided by the bolts and nuts that are in place, that is, the rules and regulations that are derived from the princi-

pal Act, The Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] Council policies are put in place by the Board which has thirteen members who were appointed by the Minister in terms of section 47 of the Act. In order to effectively execute its mandate, the Council has various specialist Council committees' which work tirelessly to deal with issues as they come for onward submission to full Council for adoption.

It is imperative to have documents requiring the attention of committees submitted fifteen days before the date of the meeting (Dates of meetings are on Council Website). Documents submitted on time will receive adequate attention.

It is also important to note that decisions conveyed to practitioners are not from the Secretariat but from the committees or Council. Secretariat only implements policies put in place by Council and its Committees.

Practitioners are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the rules and regulations that govern them. As such, members are advised to consult Council on issues they are not sure of or when in doubt.

In an effort to ensure that information is readily available, to members the Council is upgrading its website to make it more interactive and user friendly. The introduction of pocket practicing certificates (I.D. practicing certificates) was meant to protecting the public and the professionals from unscrupulous persons who tamper with the paper practicing certificates.

Fees

As previously communicated Council maintained all fees at the 2016 levels. We encourage practitioners to enter their full names and Council registration numbers on deposit slips/ transfer notes. This will help in ensuring that the deposits are recorded under the correct practitioners. Council has a point of sale machine at its offices for ease of payments.

Pre- registration Training

Council continues to encourage eligible practitioners to apply for the accreditation of their health institutions as pre- registration training premises. Those who meet the supervisory status criteria are also encouraged to apply in order to absorb as many students as possible. Council noted the concerns from practitioners on the strict requirements on accreditation of premises for pre-

registration pharmacists training. It was resolved that practitioners are no longer required to submit a new MCAZ inspection report as the last inspection report, done within the last three years, and a valid MCAZ premises licence, would be sufficient for the purposes of accreditation of pre-registration training premises.

Practitioners meeting the requirements for accreditation of their health institutions for the purposes of taking community service pharmacists (DHI status) are also encouraged to apply. Currently there are limited places for community service pharmacists as there are few health institutions accredited as such.

In January and February 2017 Council approved (9) nine foreign trained applicants for registration onto the vocational trainees register. Council resolved that practitioners who receive training outside Zimbabwe should submit proof that their qualifications were registrable in the countries where they obtained the degrees/diplomas.

Qualifying Examinations

It is Council policy that all practitioners seeking registration with Council for the first time must write and pass qualifying examinations before being admitted onto the appropriate registers. The examinations are administered to all practitioners under Council registers (pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, optometrists and dispensing opticians). The examinations are written four times a year, that is, on the last Friday of January, April, July and October. Efforts are underway that the examinations may be written online without the practitioners coming to a central venue. The framework for the examinations is available on the Council website

Previously, Council was compelling those who failed a level of examination twice to undergo remedial tutorials. Currently that requirement has been suspended until further notice. Candidates are therefore required to write the PQEs until they pass.

Council has scheduled to conduct examination seminars in major cities with the view of unpacking the examination framework to prospective candidates.

In order to avoid repeating the same questions, Council is requesting all professions (Pharmacy and optometry) to submit usable questions for incorporation into the examinations questions database. Practitioners who submit usable questions will be awarded continuous professional development points.

The last set of qualifying examinations was written on 27 January 2017 and the summary of the results is as follows:

Examination	Number of Candidates	Candidates who	Candidates who	%pass rate
Pharmacy techni-	14	7	7	50%
Pharmacists level 1B	41	22	19	53.7%
Pharmacists	9	5	4	55.6%

Candidates are urged to take the examinations seriously so that they pass them as it is a requirement for them to be transferred onto the next level of registration.

Registration of Health Institutions

Council has noted with concern that some of practitioners who had appeared before the Disciplinary Committee seem not aware of their roles and responsibilities as shareholders and directors in pharmacy/ optometry business as outlined in the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. Council hopes that practitioners will continue to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Act to avoid being found wanting.

During the period, January to February 2017, thirteen [13] organizations had applied for compliance and twelve [12] were approved in terms of the provisions of Section 124 of the Act. Fifteen pharmacies were approved for registration as retail pharmacies. No applications were received for the registration as optometry practices during the period under review.

Disciplinary Issues

Four practitioners appeared before the Disciplinary Committee of Council. The practitioners were found guilty of improper conduct and were charged for either one or more of the following misdemeanors poorly supervising health institutions

- Poor supervision of health institution and
- selling unregistered medicines and
- Advertising and touting for professional services.

Fourteen more practitioners are on the roll of the Disciplinary Committees for various infringements [pharmacists and pharmacy technicians] Practitioners are encouraged to be more vigilant to avoid being found on the wrong side of the law found on the wrong side of the law.

Council Registers

As at 28 February 2017, the following are the numbers of practitioners on the registers ;

Profession	Number
Pharmacists	885
Pharmacy Technicians	386
Optometrists	60
Dispensing Opticians	7
Hearing Aid Specialists	6
Orthoptists	0
Total	1344

Council resolved to suspend publication and gazetting of practitioners removed from the registers due nonpayment of annual fees up to March 2017. The decision was arrived at after requests were received from some practitioners who had requested for more time to regularize. The registers clean up exercise will therefore be concluded in March 2017. To date Council has considered many applications seeking reregistration and this was considered a positive move.

First Aid Training

The need for health practitioners to be able to render first aid to clients / patients who require such urgent assistance was deemed paramount. It is against this background that Council has noted the importance of practitioners to keep abreast with current trends in first aid practices. As a way of encouraging practitioners to renew their first aid knowledge, Council resolved to award fifteen [15] continuous development points to practitioners who receive first aid training. The points will be allocated under Category Two, of the Council's cpd policy, that is, under work related activities.

Quote

'You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else'
Albert Einstein

Advertising Professional Services

Practitioners are encouraged to be familiar with the provisions of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] and its relevant enactments, and in particular, the relevant Professional Conduct Regulations. The current provisions in the Professional Conduct Regulations are clear regarding advertising of professional services and they are still in force until they are reviewed



Pharmacists Council Of Zimbabwe Council Meetings Schedule for 2017

COMMITTEE	Month and Date of Meeting											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Council		23			30			31			23	
Executive Committee	26			27			27			26		
Practice Control Committee	12	9	16	6	18	15	6	17	14	5	16	
Education and Liaison Committee		2			4			3			2	
Business and Finance Committee		16		13			13			12		
Preliminary Inquiry Committee	19			20			20			19		
Disciplinary Committee			21			22			26		7	
Examination Board	16						3					
Exam Board Sub Com				3						16		
Qualifying Examination	27			28			28			27		
Pharm Techn Final Exams & Sup										16-20	20-22	
Pharm Tech Exam Committee										21	6	
Audit and Risk Management			9			8						

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