



# 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 this seventh month of 2017. So far the year has had its share of challenges but Council has managed to continue focused on its mandate. Council has managed to continuously engage the professions with the view of ensuring that they are well conversant with the rules and regulations that govern them. Council continues to endeavour to make itself visible to the public thus for the first time it exhibited at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo. We are planning for a second exhibition at the Harare Agricultural Show in August 2017. Council continues to engage other regional and global regulatory authorities with the view of ensuring that it will keep itself with current trends for the benefit of the public and the practitioners.

## Message from the Registrar



The Registrar: Mr Alois Karonga

The Pharmacists Council has remained focused on its mandate, that is, to promote public health and safety as enshrined in the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] From January to May 2017, Council deliberated on a number of issues which have been highlighted in this issue. Practitioners are continuously encouraged to acquaint themselves with the rules and regulations that govern them. With regards to payment of fees to Council, practitioners are encouraged to enter all details i.e. full names and council registration number as this will assist in the posting of the amounts to correct accounts.

## Practice of Unqualified and Unregistered Persons

Council is concerned of the unregistered and unqualified persons who are practicing the scope ordinarily reserved for registered optometrists mainly in the public sector. Council has engaged the Ministry of Health and Child Care to address the issue. It has also been noted that some pharmacists are employing unregistered and unqualified persons to practise as pharmacists. Council advises practitioners to be vigilant when recruiting locums to avoid being duped by such unscrupulous persons.



### Complaints on Dispensing

As we might be aware, our society is now aware of what to expect from pharmacy and optometry practitioners and as such practitioners should be diligent when they go about their professional duties. It is also important to note that some members of the public are not aware of the rules that are in place to govern medicines and medical devices. In the spirit of good pharmacy/ optometry practice, practitioners are encouraged to fully explain to their clients how medicines and medical devices are handled to avoid conflicts which might arise from products being brought back to the facilities. The practitioner on duty, especially pharmacists should be easily identifiable and visible in the facility in case members of the public need further information or clarification with regards to the services rendered therein. Practitioners are also encouraged to put on name tags for ease of identification by clients.

### Pre- registration Training

During the period January to May 2017, Council registered sixteen [16] foreign trained applicants for pre- registration training. During the same period Council also approved twenty two [22] pharmacists to act as pre- registration pharmacist supervisors and twelve [12] health institutions were accredited as training institutions for the purposes of training pre- registration pharmacists. Council implores practitioners who have been on the main register for three continuous years and are in good standing to apply for accreditation as pre- registration pharmacist supervisors. With effect from January 2018 Council will introduce pre- registration training for optometrists coined in the same manner as that of the pharmacists. Optometrists on the main register for at least three years and in good standing are encouraged to apply for accreditation as pre- registration optometrist supervisors as well as for their premises as training institutions for optometry interns.

### Council Registers

During the year 2016, Council advised practitioners about the process of cleaning up its registers and as such those who would not have regularised their registration by the end of the year were to be erased from the registers. Council then received representation from persons seeking the extension of the period to regularise registration. The extension was granted up to end of March 2017. During the extended period, nineteen [19] practitioners regularised their registration. Council is now in the final stage of deregistering all those who have not regularised. From January to May 2017, thirty two [32] pharmacists were admitted onto the main register on successfully completing pre- registration training and passing qualifying examinations. During the period under review, seven [7] applicants, mostly optometrists, were approved for registration on to the appropriate provisional registers and nine applicants were approved for transfer from the provisional to the appropriate main registers.

Council did not approve an applicant who had acquired a diploma through online studies. It is important for practitioners to note that Council does not register persons with qualifications acquired through online studies to practice professions listed under Part V of the First Schedule of the Health Professions Act,

As at 13 June 2017, the following are the numbers of practitioners on the Registers;

<b>Profession</b>	<b>Number</b>
Pharmacists	1173
Pharmacy Technicians	450
Optometrists	59
Dispensing Opticians	8
Hearing Aid Specialists	6
Orthoptists	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1696</b>

### Compliance and Registration of Health Institutions

During the period, January to May 2017, thirty nine [39] organizations were approved for compliance with the provisions of section 124 of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. One [1] organisation was not approved for compliance due to failure to establish whether management and control were in the hands of registered pharmacists. During the same period, forty five [45] health institutions were approved for registration as retail pharmacies and seven [7] as optometry practices. While the figures for new health institutions appear to be on the increase it should be noted that most of these institutions are only changing hands.

### Disciplinary Issues

There is an increase in the number of practitioners referred for disciplinary inquiries for various misdemeanors. The cases reported reflected that there is lack of due diligence by practitioners when hiring locum practitioners. Council encourages practitioners to see all the registration documents before hiring staff.

The following misdemeanors were recorded;

Poor supervision of health institution and

selling unregistered medicines and

Advertising and touting for professional services.

### Monitoring of Training Institutions

Council continues to monitor training institutions to ensure that the practitioners produced have the attitudes and skills which are up to expected standards. To instill a sense of professionalism and to track the student behaviour and ethics, Council resolved to keep a list of students enrolled in the training institutions. Council also conducts regular inspections at such institutions to verify the information the training institutions submits from time to time.

The establishment of a school of optometry in Zimbabwe is on the cards and this will go a long way in the provision of optometry services.

*quote*



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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