



PHARM COUNCIL NEWS

ISSUE 3 of 2017

22 DECEMBER 2017

Inside this issue:

Message from the Council Chairman	1
From the Registrar's Desk	2
Registration of Health Institutions	2
Council Registers	3
Qualifying Examinations	3
Closure of Council Offices	3
Schedule of Council Meeting	4

Message from the Council Chairman



Council Chairman: Mr Erick Chiro

We have come to the end of yet another hectic year which was characterised by a rapidly changing socio-economic environment which witnessed the liquidity crunch taking a toll on most practices and Council operations. Council has taken cognisance of the new political order which has ushered in a new economic trajectory and believes that the economy will start to improve. Council also took into consideration several key indicators such as its improved balance sheet and cash flow and need to further reduce costs by implementing electronic based files flow and approvals in approving the reduction of both practicing certificate and the registration of health institutions fees by 10%. It is Council's hope that this will help practitioners in some way.

During the year 2017, Council continued to execute its mandate as provided for in the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] through the engagement of various stakeholders on policy issues. The professions under Council's jurisdiction contributed immensely to discussions on various issues through their participation in committees and subcommittees of Council.

In the year under review, discussion pertaining to the registration of pharmaceutical wholesalers continued and there was no conclusion to the matter as the HPA and Council maintained their different views on the matter. Guidance was sought from the Minister of Health and Child Care and a response is still to be received.

The proposals on the review of the

Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] were further interrogated during the period under review and further proposals were also made. The process is yet to be finalised hence the need for practitioners to make their final contributions especially regarding sections 124 and 125 which has to do with the management and control of pharmacy and optometry businesses. It is Council's hope that the amendment will be finalised in 2018 as the Act [CAP 27:19] would be realigned to the National Constitution.

Council noted with interest that practitioners were now spreading out to set up practices in areas where pharmacy and optometry businesses had not previously been seen. We believe that this move is positive and addresses equity issues as it ensures that the population in such marginalised areas receive services from qualified personnel and from appropriate premises. Council has continued to engage the Ministry of Health and Child Care on the need for the establishment of optometry posts within the public sector. Representation has also been made on the need for the creation of training posts for the professions under Council's jurisdiction.

The continued support of students and vocational trainees by registered practitioners is commendable. During the year 2017 Council noted the steady increase in the number of applicants for pre-registration pharmacist supervisory status. Applications for accreditation for health institutions as training premises for pre-registration pharmacists were also on the increase. The necessary policies for optometry pre-registration training were also developed as the country is aiming to begin training optometrists in 2018.

In 2017, some registered practitioners passed on and it was indeed a loss to the professions and the communities they served. May their souls rest in peace.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support. Council wishes you an incident free festive season and a prosperous 2018

From the Registrar's Desk



Mr Alois Karonga PCZ Registrar

As we come to the end of the year, as Council, we also ask ourselves whether or not we have met our goals. Obviously, it was a challenging year, but the Council remained focused towards achieving its goals particularly in areas of Education and Training and Practice issues. The Council's activities were aimed at achieving the Council's strategic output as follows;

- Increase of Council visibility and enhance stakeholder engagement
- Research and development
- Adherence to good corporate governance
- Ensure practitioner compliance through inspection and monitoring

The following are some of the highlight activities that Council has embarked on;

1. Corporate Communication

Stakeholder interaction to raise awareness on quality delivery of pharmaceutical and optometry services. The stakeholder engagement was through the website, which the Council is in the process of ensuring that the website becomes an interactive one in 2018. Our database gives an accurate data on practitioners' details for the active practitioners.

2. Training/Education and Development

There has been a high uptake from the practitioners seeking accreditation of facilities for training of pre-registration pharmacists. Pharmacy training institutions were inspected for compliance with training requirements and a remarkable improvement on this area has been noted. There is still concern on the low uptake of newly qualified practitioners for placement in designated health institutions (community service) due to limited number of facilities accredited for that purpose. It is also pleasing to note that there are two (2) local training institutions coming on board next year for training of optometrists.

3. Disciplinary

The mandate of Council is to ensure maintenance and enhancement of honour and dignity by the professions who are expected to refrain from any activity that discredits it or put the public at risk.

In terms of the provisions of the Health Professions Act, [Chapter 27:19], the Council is empowered to

inquire into any matter which is brought to its attention or any complaint, charge or allegations of improper or disgraceful conduct against any registered persons. However, not all practitioners are involved in bad practices and as such there is need to commend and applaud those practitioners for upholding the dignity of their professions.

Overall, there has been an increase in the number of the errant practitioners during the year, particularly on poor supervision of pharmacies.

The Way Forward

A) Ease of Doing Business

The Council is working towards embracing the concept of ease of doing business to reduce the turnaround time on processing of applications and on reduction of costs of processing applications where possible.

B) Decentralisation of Examination Centres for Professional Qualifying Examinations

As we embrace the concept of online registration, the Council moots the concept of writing the Professional Qualifying Examinations online or to decentralize examination to provinces to reduce costs and other associated expenses.

C) Placement at Designated Health Institutions

The Council has reviewed the system of accreditation of designated health institutions in order to have more facilities training pharmacists for community service.

Wishing you all the pleasures of the holiday filled with blessed and peace, also best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 2018.

Registration of Health Institutions

During the period under review, Council approved sixty eight [68] organisations for compliance with the provisions of section 124 [2] [b] of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. The Council also approved the registration of ninety four [94] retail pharmacies and eleven [11] optometry practices in terms of the provisions of section 103 of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. Council noted during its deliberations that several pharmacy businesses changed hands during the period under review. The number of organisations which were approved for compliance do not therefore translate to growth of the professional service but just mere change of hands. Council is still in the process of establishing the causes for the 'disposal' of the pharmacy businesses by some practitioners and the motivation for acquisition of the same businesses by other practitioners. There were, however, no change of hand in the optometry practices and those recorded were new practices registered during the period under review.

Council Registers as at 22 December 2017

PROFESSION	2017
Pharmacists	1267
Pharmacy Technicians	472
Optometrists	65
D/Opticians	8
Hearing Aid Specialists	6
Orthoptists	0
TOTAL	1818

As previously communicated to practitioners through the various professional associations, Council is now concluding the process of deregistering inactive practitioners from its registers. The names of those deregistered will be published in the government Gazette as per the provisions of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. The names will also be available on the Council's website.

Qualifying Examinations

Council continued to administer qualifying examinations to pharmacists seeking registration with Council and pre-registration pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The optometrists qualifying examinations which had been suspended will now be resumed. The examinations which are written four times a year, that is, on the last Friday of January, April, July and October had the following statistics:

Examination	Date of Examination and Percentage pass rate			
	27 January 2017	28 April 2017	28 July 2017	27 October 2017
Level IB	56.1%	77.8%	29.4%	55.8%
Level II	55.6%	90%	86.7%	95.5%
Pharmacy Technicians	50%	23.1%	38.9%	36.3%

Council was concerned about the pass rate for Level IB and Pharmacy Technicians and resolved to engage the training schools with a list of areas where the candidates had performed poorly. Candidates will also be engaged with discussion centered on past examination papers and other relevant areas.

Practitioners who are mentoring the newly qualified practitioners are encouraged to assist in the examination preparation processes. It is important to note that this exercise is vital to ensure that the practitioner who finally serves the public has adequate knowledge of the sciences that underpin the professions and the rules and regulations that govern the professions.

Closure of Council Offices for the Festive Holiday and 2018 Fees Payments

The Council wishes to advise its valued stakeholders and stockholders that its offices will be closed for business from Thursday 21 December 2017 at 1300 hours and will open on Wednesday 3 January 2018 at 0800hours. Council also wishes to advise all practitioners that renewal fees should be deposited into the Council's bank account held at CBZ Kwame Nkrumah Branch, account number 01121312450019 or pay through using the point of sale machine at the Council offices during the times when the offices would be open for business. Council also wishes to advise the practitioners that fees for 2018 are as follows before adding the mandatory 15% VAT:

Pharmacists	\$167
Pharmacy Technicians	\$99
Optometrists	\$167
Dispensing opticians	\$99
Hearing Aid Specialists	\$99

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	9		10							

Inspiring Quote

'Next To Doing The Right Thing. The Most Important Thing Is To Let People Know You Are Doing The Right Thing'... John D Rockefeller

Council Contact Details.....

2 Cork Road Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe;
 P O Box CY 2138 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe
 Telephone: +263 4 740074; +263 4 740158; +263 4 741302; +263 772 370 039/047;
 +263 712 833 817

Email: admin@pcz.co.zw
 Website: www.pcz.co.zw

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