



PHARM COUNCIL NEWS

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2018– The Year And Expectations

We are now two months into 2018 and we hope that the year brought with it a new impetus for the practitioners to provide informed and quality healthcare to the Zimbabwean population. During the course of the year, Council will continue to engage the practitioners on various issues pertinent to the provision of quality healthcare to the public. It is imperative for practitioners to respond to issues from Council timeously to create a beneficial platform for dialogue from both sides.

Registration of Health Institutions

During the period under review, Council approved sixteen (16) 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 twenty five (25) retail pharmacies and one (1) optometry practice in terms of the provisions of section 103 of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19].

Council notes that a significant number of retail pharmacy businesses are changing hands with relatively fewer new entities.

Council also notes that most retail pharmacy and optometry practices are largely concentrated in the major urban centres. There is therefore need for investments of such practices in other towns, growth points and marginalized rural areas, to improve on access to equitable health care.

At the beginning of the year, Council initiated debate on proposed amendments to sections 124 and 125 of the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]. The proposals initially sent to Council are for the restriction of the businesses to the registered professionals through outright ownership and to clearly define and separate practice from business. The consultations by Council are meant to kick start debate which in the end should provide valuable insights before Council on how policy issues should be crafted. Practitioners are encouraged to freely contribute to the discussion.

Council Registers

Pursuant to Council resolution to gazette practitioners erased from the registers due to non-payment of annual fees, the affected practitioners should take note that the list is at the Attorney General awaiting approval for onward submission to the printers, Print Flow (Pvt) Ltd, for publication in the Government Gazette. Practitioners on the list, if they wish to seek registration will be deemed as new applicants and will have to go through the initial registration process. As at 13 March 2018 the Council registers had the following entries;

PROFESSION	2018
Pharmacists	1117
Pharmacy Technicians	380
Optometrists	58
D/Opticians	9
Hearing Aid Specialists	4
Orthoptists	0
TOTAL	1568

Pre- registration Training and Service In Designated Health Institutions

At the end of 2017, Council approved competent and in good standing pre- registration pharmacists supervisors to retain their pre- registration pharmacists for the twelve months of mandatory service in designated health institutions thereby expanding the number of designated health institutions. As such, supervisors will also benefit from the pre-registration pharmacists they would have trained. It is important to note that the yearly recruitment of pre -registration pharmacists by such institutions should be maintained to ensure continuity of training. The post of a pre-registration pharmacist must not be considered to be taken by a pharmacist with a restricted practising certificate

This gesture has seen most pharmacists applying for DHI status and retaining their pre- registration pharmacists for the twelve months of mandatory service. There has also been an increase in the number of pharmacists taking in pre- registration pharmacists compared to the same period in 2017.

Council, being cognisant of the practitioners' contributions in mentoring the newly qualified practitioners, has revised the continuous development points allocated to pre-registration supervisors to twenty [20] per year for supervising one pre- registration pharmacists or optometrists and thirty [30] per year for supervising two pre- registration pharmacists or optometrists. Council has also mooted to introduce pre- registration training for both pharmacy technicians and dispensing opticians with the view of strengthening their understanding of the professional practice.

Education and Training

Council is pleased to inform practitioners that the first two optometry training schools in Zimbabwe namely the University of Zimbabwe and Bindura University of Science Education were approved to offer Bachelor of Optometry degrees training programmes starting 2018.

Council also continues to engage all its approved training institutions; the University of Zimbabwe, Harare Institute of Technology, Harare Polytechnic and the Ministry of Health and Child Care's Pharmacy Technicians Training School to ensure that graduates from the institutions are competent and sufficient knowledge and skills to discharge their duties as expected. Council is looking at the modalities of creating specialist registers and is developing a framework on qualifications, areas and standards of practices. Council is also musing introducing certificate courses with the view of imparting specialist knowledge and skills to registered practitioners.

Trade Fair Participation

In its quest to increase visibility and awareness to the general public and to the professions it regulates, the Council will participate and exhibit at the 2018 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) to be held in Bulawayo from 24 to 28 April 2018. Council had found it prudent to jointly exhibit at this Fair together with willing professional associations as they showcase the services offered by their members.

Practitioners who will manage to attend the 2018 ZITF are encouraged to visit Council's exhibition stand. Council representatives will attend to general inquiries from practitioners at the Fair. Council will also be exhibiting at the 2018 edition of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show to be held in Harare in August 2018

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							

Inspiring Quote

One must learn by doing the thing; for though you think you know it, you have no certainty, until you try.

***** Sophocles *****

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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