**PCN-LaunchDSI PROJECT**

**REPORT OF THE ZONAL MEETING OF ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PPMVL COMMITTEE (SOTH-SOUTH GEOPOLITICAL ZONE)**

**Venue:** Kenbrill Hyatt Hotel, Agborofo Street, GRA, Benin, Edo State

**Date**: June 16, 2017

**Attendance:** (Attached)

1. **Preamble**

The meeting is among the on-going activities of phase I of PCN-LaunchDSI project. It was a meeting between the PCN-LaunchDSI team and State PPMVL Committees of the six states of South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The PPMVL committees invited were the chairmen of the committees (DPSs of each state within the zone), Secretary (PCN state officer of each state within the zone) and two representatives of NAPPMED official of each state. The meeting was organized to harvest the views, ideas and experiences on the ways and manners by which the healthcare service delivery can be improved in the patent medicines shops, and also to seek the readiness of the PPMVL committee to support the PCN towards successful implementation of the LaunchDSI project.

The meeting was attended by the Registrar PCN, PCN-LaunchDSI team and representatives of State PPMVL committees of Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Edo, Cross Rivers and Rivers State.

1. **Commencement**

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer at 09:45am, adoption of the agenda for the meeting followed by formal introduction by all the participants. The meeting was chaired by the Registrar PCN.

1. **Opening remarks**

The opening remarks was delivered by the Registrar, PCN. He welcomed the participants to the meeting and thank them for honoring the invitation. The remarks focused on:

* The PCN’s statutory responsibilities.
* The background history of PPMVL operations in Nigeria
* The laws that empower PCN to regulate the operation of PPMVs in Nigeria
* The Registrar’s efforts in improving the operation of PPMVs in Nigeria

He concluded by seeking the cooperation and support of the State PPMVL committees for successful implementation of the project and overall improvement of PPMV operation towards provision of quality, available, accessible and safe medicines in Nigeria.

The opening remarks was followed by comments, questions and answers from the participants:

The NAPPMED National Vice President **Mr. Ewer Iguna** commended the efforts of the Registrar for his agenda to reposition the operation of PPMVs in Nigeria. He further asked for an explanation on why:

* + - Many PPMVs have paid for PCN sign-post but were not issued
    - Existing PPMVs were asked to relocate to another place when a new community pharmacy is opening within 200 meters proximity.
    - Prior information was not given to NAPPMED during enforcement exercise

Other participants also commended the efforts of PCN in improving PPMVs operation in Nigeria. They however call on the PCN to be organizing this kind of meeting annually. They further asked why:

* NAPPMED officials are no longer part of State PPML committees in some states
* PPMVs does not have an entry requirements

The Registrar, responded to all the questions as below:

The PCN had an M.O.U with immediate leadership of NAPPMED on issues bothering the regulation and operations of PPMVs in Nigeria. And most of the questions raised by the participants were resolved by the MOU. He added that the new leadership of NAPPMED ignored the MOU. Currently, the PCN is planning another table-discussion with the new leadership of NAPPMED were many issues regarding the sign-post, proximity between new pharmacy and existing Patent Medicines Shop (PMS) will discussed and resolve.

Regarding the issues of no inclusion of NAPPMED official in the PPMV committee in some states will be looked in to by the PCN. Also the law has not made provision for informing NAPPMED of enforcement activities by the PCN prior to the exercise. Lastly, the issue of entry requirements of the PPMVs has already been addressed in the PPMVL guidelines (a PCN publication).

1. **Presentations**
2. **Topic:** Report of the Situation Assessment of the Operation of the Patent Medicines Vendors

**Presenter:** Pharm. Babashehu Ahmed

The outline of the presentation include:

* Background information
  + Profile of Nigeria
  + History of Patent and Proprietary Medicines Vendors (PPMVs) in Nigeria
  + The Place of the PPMVs in the Healthcare Delivery System
* Regulatory Mechanisms
  + Registration and Licensing
  + Orientation Programme and Continuing Education Programme
  + Monitoring and Inspection
  + Activities of PPMV Inspection Committees
  + The PCN PPMVL-Sign Post
* Records of Licensure/Enforcement Activities
* New Strategies to Re-Positioned PPMV Operations in Nigeria
  + New Partnership for Projects Initiatives
  + Review of Approved Patent Medicines List
  + Partnership/Collaboration with Development/Implementing Partners, NGOs and other Agencies
  + Strengthening Regulation Of PPMV Operations

1. **Topic:** Highlights of the Activities of the 3-Phased Project for Improved Patent Medicines Vendors’ Operation (LaunchDSI Project).

**Presenter:** Pharm. T.O Ilupeju

The highlights of the presentation include:

* The activities under phase I, II and III of the PCN-LaunchDSI project.

**iii Topic:** Discussion on Identified Gaps and Emerging Opportunities in the Operation of the PMVs in Nigeria.

**Presented by:** Pharm. Viona Ologe

The highlights include of the presentation include:

* Identified gaps
* Emerging opportunities

1. **Commitment of participation by the DPSs and NAPPMED officials.**

The session was anchored by Pharm I.B Ahmed. The commitment of participation and support was made by each of the DPS and the NAPPMED official one after the other. All the participants pledged their commitment and support towards the project and further commend the collaboration of PCN and MSH towards improved PPMV operations in Nigeria.

1. **Closing Remarks**

Pharm I.B Ahmed thanks all the participants for honoring the invitation, contributions and enlisting of their commitment to support the project. He however, commended the cooperation and support of NAPPMED national body for the project and their willingness to dialogue with PCN.

1. **Closing prayer**

The meeting ended at 05:00 pm with a closing prayer (second stanza of the National anthem) by all the participants.

1. **Lunch**

