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PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

NEWSLETTER

**PPB partners with IGAD to improve
patient safety –**

www.pharmacyboardkenya.org



Pharmacy and
Poisons Board



COMMONLY REPORTED SIDE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 VACCINES



Headache



Fever



Nausea



Rash



Fatigue



Tiredness



Pain at injection site



Decreased Appetite



Vomiting



Dizziness



Body chills



Abdominal Pain

You are encouraged to report **ANY** side effect you may experience after vaccination to Pharmacy and Poisons Board through any of the channels below:

PUBLIC/PATIENTS

Website pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/padrs/add

Phone [+254 795 743 049](tel:+254795743049)

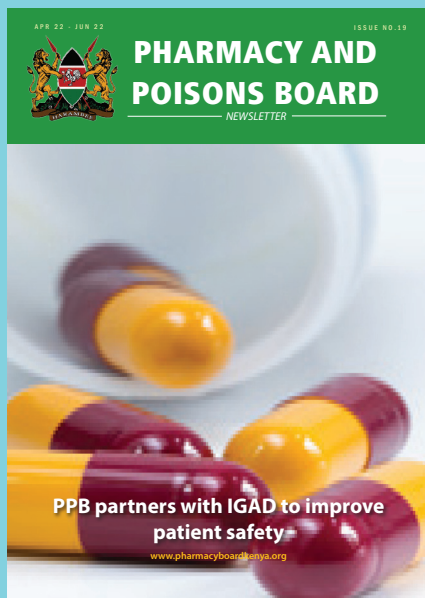
or report to the nearest health facility

HEALTH WORKERS

Website pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/

Email pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org

Phone [+254 795 743 049](tel:+254795743049)



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About The Newsletter

The PPB Newsletter is a publication of the Public Relations Department. It is designed to act as a tool of communication, documenting and disseminating important news and information to staff and stakeholders of the Board

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Editor's Note

We are grateful

Dear readers,

Welcome to the nineteenth edition of PPB Newsletter! As we round out the year and move forward into the next FY, I would like to thank the management and staff for their unwavering support and guidance. Your hard work, commitment and investment in our Board is what has helped us in our upward trajectory as a leading pharmaceutical regulator in the region.

In this issue, we highlight the Board's activities and events, and explore the collaboration with partners such as IGAD to improve public health.

We want to thank everyone who has so generously contributed articles to this issue. We want to hear from you. Readers are encouraged to send us feedback—it keeps us on target and helps us meet your information needs. Send your articles, comments, questions and criticisms to pr@pharmacyboardkenya.org

In this Newsletter, your voice matters. Let it be heard.

Judy

ONGOING EVENTS

- Updating the Kenya CAPA Table



PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

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Pharmacy and Poisons Board



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Pharmacists urged to embrace innovation during the 42nd Annual Conference

There's need for collective efforts and innovative interventions to address the quality, cost and availability of health products.

Addressing the 42nd Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya Annual Scientific Conference on 2nd June 2022 under the theme "Disruptive advances in pharmacy for improved Healthcare" the Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Rashid Aman said the pharmaceutical care services are much needed now than ever.

"Having been shown to make the difference in the mortality and morbidity as well as contribution to the cost of healthcare, pharmaceutical services not only save patients' lives, but also improve patients' quality of life and influence expenses" the CAS said.

The CAS noted that the Pharmacists' contribution to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is exceptional, at each level of practice and everyone must feel the responsibility that is ahead of us.

"Innovation is going to drive our responsiveness moving forward and we must not only aim at equipping a critical mass of health care providers with knowledge and skills to offer services in line



Health Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Rashid Aman addresses PSK conference delegates



PSK conference delegates

with UHC but also the provision of this care that embraces disruption, innovation, and upgrading of our current modes of delivering healthcare," he stressed.

The CAS commended the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya for embarking on several projects to support innovations that will disrupt the status quo and make healthcare provision better, adding that appropriate technologies and data collection measures are necessary to make monitoring of patient safety, care, and support compliance easier.

"A comprehensive history of the patient's profile, including aspects of medication history, drug interactions and adverse events can be recorded, and such data used to the benefit of the patient," he added.

Dr. Rashid acknowledged the pharmacists' for being the key members of the healthcare team and the major role they play on a daily basis in providing care. This care is often free and the impact is neither documented nor recognized he added. "Pharmacy processes have been less than robust as majority of pharmacies may not be keeping comprehensive patient service records," he argued.



PPB CEO Dr. F.M Siyoi makes his remarks at the 42nd PSK Conference

He highlighted that majority of pharmacists do not have a functional dispensing software nor technologies that are necessary to keep patients' records straight and safe for decision making or make them available for other caregivers.

"The Safety of these patients is in the hands of the pharmacist, and I am challenging the pharmacist to be more effective, efficient and promote safety innovatively providing commendable care to patients but also observed that this also remains undocumented and unknown," he advised.

Dr. Aman also commended the Ministry of Health, JHPiogo, PSK collaboration to design, develop and deploy a Pharmacy Reporting System which will collect data on the provision of advanced



Delegates follow proceedings at Diani Reef Hotel

family planning offered by both pharmacists and pharmaceutical technologists. "It is our desire that this is scaled up and replicated in all other areas of pharmacy service delivery," he said.

He noted that to provide better care, specialization will be a key part of upskilling. "We are aware that the currently available specializations are limited. We are working closely with the regulator, PPB and PSK to expand the specialization to include the other clinical and non-clinical expertise like communication, management, and supply chain to name a few," Dr. Rashid said.

He observed that specialization will

develop highly trained pharmacists that will expand the provider services pool for the benefit of patients towards achievement of UHC.

He added that the Ministry of Health is keen on strengthening governance for HPTs both at the national and the county levels. "In the last two years, we have supported county governments in several critical aspects such as the national forecasting of HPT needs and establishment of governance structures just to mention a few," he said.

"We are also keen on working with the manufacturing sub-sector to grow the local industries for

manufacturing HPT. COVID-19 has taught many that a level of self-reliance is critical and indeed, UHC implementation calls for this if at all we have to meet our HPT needs sustainably," he said.

Dr. Rashid disclosed that the Kenya Drug Act and the Pharmacy Practice Bill will define services that a pharmacist must have in the advancement of UHC. These are areas that we are pursuing under the policy, he added and noted that the Pharmacy Practitioner's Bill/Act will endeavor to make pharmacist's cognitive services an Essential Health Benefit. The Act will provide a framework solid enough to support pharmacists as they serve the general public by recognizing their contribution.

Speaking at the same event, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO, Dr. F. M. Siyoi challenged the PSK members to consider specialization in order to meet the market requirements which he said has become dynamic.

He thanked the Pharmacists for their support and asked those in academia to consider adding innovative approaches in the field to help tackle diseases such as NCDs which are overtaking other diseases.

PPB, USAID unveil mobile app for reporting ADRs

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) through the support from the USAID Medicines, Technologies & Pharmaceutical Services Program has developed a mPvERs system; a mobile based solution that provides a reporting platform of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and suspected poor-quality health products & technologies by the public.

This mobile solution which is in form of a mobile application for both android and iOS and an

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) solution was launched on 13th April, 2022 by the Ministry of Health, Chief Administrative Secretary, Dr. Rashid Aman, in a virtual press conference attended by PPB Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. Siyoi, and Country Project Director MTaPS Program, Dr. Ndinda Kusu among others.

The solution supports the reporting of the adverse events following immunization, adverse drug reactions, suspected poor

quality medical products and technologies, medication errors, transfusion reactions, medical devices incidents and public reporting via the USSD.

The solution is developed to supplement the existing national reporting system Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System (PvERS II), launched in March 2021 to increase and improve consumer reporting and AEFI reporting.

"This is another great milestone

achieved by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board towards the monitoring of quality, safety and efficacy of health products and technologies in Kenya," Dr. Rashid said.


The CAS noted that consumer reporting is a useful tool in empowering the consumers and improving their involvement in the management of their own health.

"The Ministry of Health through Pharmacy and Poisons Board is committed to providing Kenyans with safe, quality and efficacious medical products and health technologies and we are looking forward to great outputs from the mPVERS system," he said.

Dr. Siyoi said the Pharmacovigilance electronic reporting system will go a long way in strengthening reporting and vigilance on safety quality issues for health products and technologies in Kenya both by healthcare providers and the general public.

The CEO thanked the USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program, for their technical and financial support in the development of the mPVERS platform.

The Pharmacovigilance electronic reporting system (PVERS) has been in operation since the year 2013. In order to align with the international standards and cognizant of the expanded scope of pharmacovigilance globally, the PVERS was upgraded to PVERS II in



Pharmacy and Poisons Board

REPORTING PLATFORMS FOR SIDE EFFECTS AND POOR QUALITY MEDICINES

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board encourages you to report any suspected side effects following the use of medicines, vaccines or medical devices. You can also report on poor quality medicines.

The channels for reporting are below:

PUBLIC/PATIENTS

1. Dial USSD code *271#

Carrier info

Welcome to mPVERS. (Karibu kwenye mPVERS)
Please select a language (Tafadhali chagua lugha)

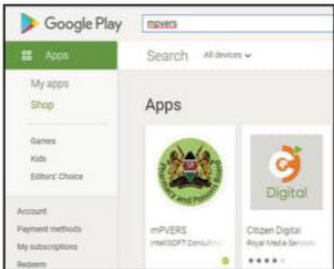
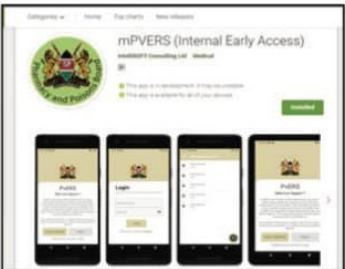
1. English
2. Swahili

Cancel
Send

2. Website: pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/padrs/add

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

1. Download and install the mobile app (mPVERS) from Google Play store or iOS Apple Store

2. Website: pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org

3. Email: pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org

mPVERS tool

March, 2021 to include reporting of adverse events following immunization, medication errors, transfusion reactions and incidents from medical devices.

The PPB has received over 16,000

reports which have been used to inform policy change, review of treatment guidelines and various regulatory actions, the CEO noted.

PPB partners with IGAD to improve patient safety

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), has implemented several post-marketing surveillance (PMS) and pharmacovigilance (PV) activities within the IGAD

member states which include Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.

A close-out meeting for the project supported by United States Agency for International Development

(USAID) through IGAD on post-marketing surveillance and pharmacovigilance activities at IGAD regional level and country level in Kenya, was held on May 13, 2022 at the PPB.

The activities conducted in the last two years includes



A closeout meeting at PPB with the development partners

a baseline assessment survey of Pharmacovigilance systems in IGAD member states, development and implementation of harmonized IGAD PV Indicator Assessment and Monitoring tool and development of draft PV rules which are pending enactment based on gaps identified during the baseline assessment.

Other activities are the establishment and operationalization of pharmacovigilance expert review and advisory committee (PERAC), sensitization of health care workers at cross border health facilities of Mandera, Marsabit, and Turkana Counties, establishment and implementation of therapeutic committees at cross border health facilities, and development of draft Harmonised PV curriculum for in service training of healthcare workers by the IGAD pharmacovigilance expert working group (EWG).

The successful implementation of all the activities is attributed to structured and systematic collaboration of the PPB, IGAD member states and the IGAD secretariat as well as the kind financial and technical support of the USAID through The Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPs), the U.S. Pharmaceutical Convention (USP) and Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus (PQM+).

In addition, various post-marketing surveillance

activities were conducted among them the development of protocol on risk-based – PMS of selected health products, in collaboration with USP/PQM+. The selected health products included; Oxytocin, Gentamicin, Magnesium sulphate and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Other PMS activities were implementation of quality survey of the selected products at the cross-border counties of Turkana, West-Pokot, Mandera and Busia where ninety-eight (98) Samples were collected and are at final stages of testing.

The member states in IGAD were twinned to enable work sharing and technical support for member states which have less developed regulatory systems.

In this regard, Kenya supported Sudan and South Sudan to apply Medicines risk-based surveillance tool (MedRS) which was critical for development of the PMS survey protocol.



A group photo of the development partners (USAID & IGAD) and PPB

Joint operation nabs 70, seizes 133 cartons of assorted HPT(s)

In its effort to tame irregular pharmaceutical practices in the country the Pharmacy and

Poisons Board (PPB) conducted a joint regulatory operation in Lower Eastern Kenya and

Nairobi region in partnership with the National Police Service. The operation that commenced



A PPB drugs inspector inspects a chemist during the crackdown activity

on 28th March 2022 seized at least 113 cartons of assorted Medical Products and Health Technologies (HPTs) that were found in the illegal premises.

Head of Enforcement and Surveillance, Kaluai Julius confirmed on April 1, 2022 that a total of 70 persons were arrested and registered for prosecution in various courts within Lower Eastern and Nairobi regions.

"The seized medicines shall be analyzed and disposed as guided through the issued court orders and in accordance with the PPB guidelines and operational Standard Operating Procedures on disposal of pharmaceutical waste," Kaluai said.

The targeted HPTs distribution

outlets includes illegal chemists, medicine hawkers, clinics, herbal medicine stores and cosmetic shops stocking medicament containing preparations disguised as cosmetics.

Some of the charges preferred to those found in violation includes possession of part I poisons while not being an authorized seller of poisons contrary to the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap. 244 laws of Kenya.

The special drive by the Board to tame irregular pharmaceutical practices in the country is also focusing on stakeholder engagement and sensitization of key players involved in the criminal justice systems on its mandate.

Besides, the crackdown the Board is also conducting an audit of the controlled medicines and prescription medicine documentation in line with the Pharmacy regulations and execution of warrants of arrest relating to Pharma crimes.

These warrants were issued by various courts under the specified jurisdiction following absconding of court obligations by the suspects who were charged with the various pharmacy related offences, the head of good distribution practices said.

The crackdown also aims to enforce the previously issued closure notices that were meted out during joint crackdowns and routine Pharmaceutical regulatory inspections.

Kaluai decried about the emergence of illegal chemists within Mlolongo and Kangundo areas. "Some of these clinics were found running illegal pharmacies run by unqualified pharmaceutical personnel," he stated.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board is National Drug Regulatory Authority in the Ministry of Health, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244 Laws of Kenya to regulate the practice of pharmacy and ensure safety, quality and efficacy of Medical Products and Health Technologies.



A closure notice displayed on a closed premise

PPB puts on notice illegal operators in North Eastern

A total of 40 persons were arrested and booked for prosecution in various courts within North Eastern Kenya and Nairobi regions on April 16, 2022 for operating illegal pharmacies. The joint pharmaceutical

regulatory operation in partnership with the National Police Service commenced on 10th April 2022 to subdue unlawful pharmaceutical practices in the country.

Kaluai Julius, Head of

Inspections, Surveillance and Enforcement said the operation aimed to conduct surveillance along the Ethiopia and Somalia borders to combat suspected smuggling of Health Products and Technologies, particularly

in Mandera and Moyale border points.

"We are also carrying out stakeholder engagement and sensitization on PPB mandate focusing on the key players within North Eastern region among them Police, Imams, county governments, county assemblies, professional bodies, and the public.

The sensitization program further aims at banishing the emerging trend of abuse and misuse of controlled and prescription medicines especially by Khat users to achieve a "Kabarai impact," Kaluai said.

Besides the surveillance and enforcement of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) Good Distribution Practices, the Board is conducting an audit of the controlled medicines and prescription medicine documentation in line with the Pharmacy regulations.



An assortment of medicines seized during the crackdown

"We have noted that most unregulated chemists within North Eastern region operate while disguised as clinics. They are mainly owned and managed by healthcare workers within the county government. Such officers shall be sanctioned through the respective county governments to procure valid practice licenses and to regularize their private practice in line with Good Distribution Practices for pharmaceuticals," Kaluai stated.

On the same breath, Kaluai emphasized that key monitoring and scrutiny is being carried out within Dadaab refugee camp to identify and avert any pharmaceutical malpractices and illegalities within the camp. The regulatory operation within the two regions is part of the affirmative effort to establish a sustainable regulatory impact within the country. Illegal pharmaceutical practitioners are placed under a statutory notice that the Board shall pursue them, Kaluai warned.

He appealed for support from the public, the National Police Service and the National Government administrative organs especially the local chiefs in monitoring and enforcement of closure notices issued.

Further, the Board is seeking partnership with the professional bodies and healthcare workers following numerous adverse drug reactions and suspected poor-quality Health Products and Technologies reported within North Eastern Region.



A PPB drugs inspector carries an assortment of medical products seized during a crackdown in North Eastern

The Pharmacovigilance related issues can be reported via regulatory@phpv.pharmacyboardkenya.org or pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org

The Board wishes to further retaliate to the residents of North Eastern region that the process of Pharmaceutical Premises Licensing is online. Plans to operationalize the PPB office in Garissa is also underway. Clients can reach the Regional Regulatory Coordinator, Omar Sheikh Alare on 0711584408 at somar@pharmacyboardkenya.org.

The public and private healthcare facilities handling pharmaceuticals are also notified to apply online for disposal of any pharmaceutical waste that they may have or get in touch with PPB regional officers. (website: www.pharmacyboardkenya.org)

PPB heightens surveillance to weed out illegal outlets

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) has heightened the war on illegal pharmaceutical outlets in Nairobi and parts of Kajiado counties.

The latest crackdown on April 28, 2022 saw PPB together with the National Police Service seize a total of 150 cartons of assorted pharmaceuticals valued at Sh24 million.

A total of 65 people were also arrested and booked for prosecution in various courts across the counties.

According to the Head of Good Distribution Practices Julius Kaluai, information acquired from the



PPB Head of Good Distribution Practices Mr. Julius Kaluai addresses the media after the crackdown



closed premises will aid the Board in arresting those who are engaging in malpractice thus endangering the lives of the public.

He further explained that the seized pharmaceuticals will be analysed to determine whether they are fit for human consumption or destroyed in accordance to the safe disposal of pharmaceutical waste guidelines.

He also advised the members of

the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious chemists that have been mushrooming especially in the informal settlements.

"All pharmaceutical outlets must be manned by qualified persons," Mr. Kaluai said and acknowledged that there has been some level of improvement of compliance in the industry since PPB intensified its surveillances activities across the country.

PPB arrests Seventy-two over malpractice

Seventy-two people were arrested in an operation to get rid of illegal pharmaceutical premises in Nyanza, North-rift and Nairobi regions.

The operation to stem down irregular pharmaceutical practices in the country commenced on April 2022 in partnership with the National Police Service.

In a statement on May 14, 2022 the Head of Good Distribution Practices, Kaluai Julius said 120 cartons of assorted Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) found in the illegal premises were seized.

Forty offenders were arrested in Nyanza region, 21 in North rift

region and 11 in Ongata Rongai, Kiserian and Kamulu towns within Nairobi Region.

"The objective of the operation is to enforce closure of non-compliant pharmaceutical premises which, were previously closed down as well as executing warrants of arrest relating to Pharma crimes," he said.

The warrants were issued by various courts under the specified jurisdiction following absconding of court obligations by the suspects who were charged with the various violations of Cap 244.

He cautioned individuals against vandalizing closure notices issued to non-compliant pharmaceutical



Inside an illegal chemist

outlets noting that investigations are ongoing and once complete the offenders shall face the law.

"The Board has also noticed that some practitioners are branding their premises using different names from the licenses issued. We



Cartons of assorted medicines seized during the crackdown

advising the practitioners to ensure their premises are rebranded as per the license issued," he noted.

Besides enforcing the closure notices Kaluai said the Board is conducting an audit on the handling of controlled medicines and prescription medicine documentation in line with the Pharmacy regulations.

"We are also carrying out surveillance and enforcement of Good Distribution Practices for HPTs and stakeholder engagement and sensitization on PPB mandate focusing on the key players that

are involved in the criminal justice systems such as ODPP and the judicial officers," he said.

Kaluai pointed out in the latest operation the Board encountered resistance within Cheptulo market neighboring western Kenya and areas of Nandi Hills with intent of obstructing justice and enforcement of cap 244.

"We shall not tire in the fulfillment of our obligations. The investigative organs are in hot pursuit to net the culprits behind this incidence," he warned.

PPB targets illegal distributors of HPTs in South Rift and Nairobi regions

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) in partnership with the Kenya Police Service acted to target pharmaceutical outlets that illegally sell Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) to consumers in South Rift and Nairobi regions.

The operation that commenced on 22nd May 2022 saw a complete seizure of at least 140 cartons of assorted HPTs worth 24 million Kenya shillings, found in the illegal premises.

The Head of Good Distribution Practices at PPB Julius Kaluai confirmed on May 28, 2022 in a statement that 77 persons were arrested and registered for prosecution in various courts within South rift and Nairobi regions.

"The seized medicines shall be analyzed and disposed of as guided through the issued court orders," Kaluai said.

Some of the charges preferred to those found in violation include; Possession of part I poisons while not being an authorised seller of poisons contrary to section 26(1) (b) as read with section 26(2) of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap. 244 laws of Kenya.

The scope of the operation target profiled hotspot counties namely



A police officer checks on an abandoned chemist during a crackdown

Nakuru Nairobi, Kericho, Narok, Bomet, Laikipia and Samburu.

The targeted Health Products Technologies distribution outlets includes registered chemists, illegal chemists, medicine hawkers, clinics, herbal medicine stores and cosmetic shops stocking medicament containing preparations disguised as cosmetics.

Kaluai said the aim of the operation is to audit the documentation of controlled medicines and prescription medicines in line with the Pharmacy regulations.

He added that the Board is also

conducting surveillance and enforcement of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) Good Distribution Practices as well as enforcement of previously issued closure notices including execution of warrants of arrest relating to Pharma crimes.

On May 13, a similar crackdown led to the arrest of 72 people and 120 cartons of medicine confiscated in the Nyanza, North Rift and Nairobi regions.

"Our key concern is the emergence of illegal chemists within target zones owned by qualified

pharmaceutical personnel. There is also a rising trend of medical clinics running illegal pharmacies that are also manned by unqualified pharmaceutical personnel. Such

practitioners shall be investigated and prosecuted," he stated.

The mission of the Board is to protect and promote the health of the public by regulating the

profession of pharmacy and ensuring access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable health products and technologies.

PPB operation seizes HPTs worth Sh16 million

A joint pharmaceutical regulatory operation with the National Police Service arrested 72 offenders in a countrywide bust, seizing assorted Medical Products and Technologies (HPTs) worth Ksh.16 million.

The operation that was carried out between 5th and 11th June, 2022 covered Upper Eastern region, Coast region, Lower Eastern region, and Kiambu county.

Kaluai Julius who is the Head of the Good Distribution Practices at Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) said the objective of the exercise is to enforce closure of non-compliant pharmaceutical premises which, were previously closed down and augment the routine inspections carried out through the PPB regional offices.

He elaborated that the operation is also targeting licensed pharmacies to audit the handling of controlled medicines and prescription medicines in line with the Pharmacy regulations.

"Our focus is to thwart irregular

pharmaceutical practices in the identified areas and enforce closure of non-compliant pharmaceutical premises which were previously closed down," he said.

He further noted that the major outcome of the operation is to enhance Surveillance and Enforcement of Good Distribution Practices for HPTs in the country, as well as to carry out stakeholder engagement and sensitization on PPB mandate focusing on the key players involved in the criminal justice systems.

The Board wishes to guide the public that chemists bearing no names on display is a key pointer to an illegal pharmaceutical outlet, he added.

"We are advising the public to verify the registration details of pharmacy practitioners from the PPB website <https://practice.pharmacyboardkenya.org/LicenseStatus> and also to report unregistered practitioners through info@pharmacyboardkenya.org or



One of the illegal outlets shut in Nairobi

call 0702475801," he noted.

The Board further makes an appeal to all the stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the amended guidelines for Good Distribution practices for pharmaceuticals which are available in the PPB website <https://web.pharmacyboardkenya.org/downloads/guidelines/>

"We have observed that some premises branding does not match the name as per the licenses. The practitioners are advised to rebrand the premises so that the name strictly matches the approved name as per the license," he further advised.

PPB audit targets licensed pharmacies

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board has partnered with the National Police Service for a continued joint regulatory operation in Nairobi, Western and North Eastern regions, to thwart irregular pharmaceutical practices in the country.

The Board is also targeting licensed pharmacies to audit the handling of controlled medicines and prescription

medicines in line with the Pharmacy regulations.

The operation that commenced on 14th June 2022 has seen 65 offenders being apprehended and a total seizure of at least 100 cartons of assorted HPTs found in the illegal premises.

The seized medicines shall be disposed off as guided through the issued court orders and





A closed premise during the crackdown

in accordance with the PPB guidelines and operational SOPs on disposal of pharmaceutical waste.

Head of Good Distribution Practices Julius Kaluai is advising the public to verify the registration details of pharmacy practitioners from practice. pharmacyboardkenya.org/LicenseStatus. Unregistered practitioners should also be reported via [info@](mailto:info@pharmacyboardkenya.org)

pharmacyboardkenya.org or 0702475801.

"We are cautioning the public from engaging in illegal pharmaceutical practices and encourage licensed pharmaceutical practitioners to uphold the highest ethical practices to enhance pharmaceutical sanity in the sector," said Kaluai.

Botswana delegates visits PPB

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board hosted a delegation from the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA) from April 4th to 8th, 2022, who were in the country on a benchmarking tour on medicines regulation with a key interest on enforcement.

The duo, Mr. Richard Mothibedi Leepo and Mr. Bashi Bruce Ntshonono who also met the PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi, explored the entire regulatory systems at the Board in order to improve their operations.



PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi during a meeting with the Botswana delegates



Delegates at the PPB Quality Control Laboratory and at the Clinical Trials office



Ambassador of Jordan visits PPB



PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi at a meeting with the Jordanian Ambassador to Kenya H.E Firas Khouri

The Ambassador of Jordan to Kenya H.E Firas Khouri

in the company of the Economic Counsellor, Dr. Amer Aburumman on April 5, 2022 paid a courtesy call on the Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi.

The meeting centered on registration of Jordanian medicines in Kenya and establishment of an MoU between Jordan Food and Drugs



Administration (JFDA) and PPB for mutual benefits.

PPB staff undergo a Public Relations training

On April 7, 2022 the Corporate Communications Division organised a three-day public relations capacity building program series designed to provide skills, training & guidance on effective communication; achieving & sustaining service excellence; emotional intelligence among others. This will not only increase productivity but also lead to team cohesion.



Group discussions during the training



Mr. Joseph Silaya receives his certificate from the trainers.

PPB conducts professional exams

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) conducted the professional examinations between 12th to 15th April 2022 in six centres across the country. The exams are conducted to evaluate candidates before registration as pharmacists or enrolment as pharmaceutical technologists.



Candidates at an examination centre in Nairobi, KICC

KMTC students visits PPB

Pharmacy students from the Kenya Medical Training College-Mombasa on April 25, 2022 visited Pharmacy and Poisons Board with an aim of understanding the Board's mandate and regulation of the pharmacy practice. They were received by the Director of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Wilfred Ochieng and Dr. Abdul Omar.



KMTC Mombasa Campus students at PPB



PPB Pharmacy Practice Director, Dr. Wilfred Ochieng addresses the students at PPB Headquarter



Indian high Commission visits PPB

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi on May 10, 2022 held talks with a team from the High Commission of India led by the Second Secretary, Commerce, Mr. Rakesh Mohan.

The discussions centered on areas of mutual interests and how Indian pharmaceutical firms can expand their market presence in the country owing that pharmaceutical products are among the top three traded



PPB CEO during a meeting with the Indian High Commission team

commodities between the two countries.

In attendance were PPB's Corporate Services Director, Dr. Jacinta Wasike, Dr. James Owuor,

Regulatory officer, PPB, Ms. Priya D. Bhanot and Mr. Alvito Odoyo from the High Commission of India.

PPB attends the 9th Africities expo

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) was among hundreds of exhibitors at the #africities9 expo launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta on May 17, 2022, in Kisumu county.

The PPB used the opportunity to highlight the PPB mandate to the stakeholders in the region as well as the visiting delegates.

The theme of the summit was "The Role of Intermediary Cities



Visitors at the PPB stand during the 9th Africities Summit

of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United



Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063"

PPB hosts Switzerland Global Enterprise delegation

On May 20, 2022 the Pharmacy and Poisons Board hosted a delegation from the Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) led by the Director, Mr. Stefan Barny

and the head of Swiss Business Hub South Africa, Mr. Daniel Schneider, under the Embassy of Switzerland in Kenya.

The purpose of the visit was

to enlighten the Pharmacy and Poisons Board about the infrastructure initiative from Switzerland's Government. They held discussions on infrastructure projects in the health sector and the role of national and county governments.

They were received by the Director Quality Control, Dr. Obadiah Naikuni on behalf of the CEO, Dr. F. M. Siyoi.



Switzerland Global Enterprise delegation at PPB



Indonesia Ambassador visits PPB

The Ambassador of Indonesia H.E Mohamad Hery Saripudin accompanied by Mr. Aditya Aji Nugraha on 31st May, 2022 paid a courtesy call on the Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO, Dr. F. M. Siyoi to discuss a planned visit by the Chairperson of the Indonesian Food Drug Authority,



Indonesia Ambassador H.E Mohamad Hery Saripudin during a meeting with PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi

Dr. Ir. Penny K. Lukito, MCP.

Dr Lukito visited the country between 15th and 19th June, 2022 to meet with various stakeholders in Kenya with an

aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation between regulatory authorities dealing with medical products, vaccines, food and cosmetics.

Indonesian FDA Chairperson visits PPB

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi on 16th June, 2022 hosted the Ambassador of Indonesia H.E Mohamad Hery Saripudin who was accompanied by a delegation from the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority led by the Chairperson Dr. Ir. Penny K. Lukito MCP.

Dr. Lukito was in the country to meet with relevant stakeholders in Kenya to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the areas of medical products, vaccines, food and cosmetics regulation.

The parties discussed and



PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi during a meeting with the Indonesian FDA delegation

explored various areas of collaboration towards



improving access to quality safe and efficacious Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) and agreed to develop a framework on the same.

PPB sensitizes stakeholders at the World Anti-Counterfeit Event

On 8th June, 2022 the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) participated in the World Anti-Counterfeiting event organised by the

Anti-counterfeit Authority to sensitize County & National Government Officers on its mandate in relation to issues of counterfeiting and illicit trade.

The Head of Lower Eastern Region Office, Dr. Benson Kanji attended the built-up event on behalf of the PPB, CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi at the International

Convention Centre in Machakos. The World Anti-Counterfeiting Day raises awareness of the negative impact of



Visitors engage with PPB staff at the World Anti-Counterfeit event in Machakos

counterfeiting on health, safety, economy and security.

Dr. Kanji advised the public to always check the manufacturing date and expiry date when purchasing medical products.

He noted that Pharmaceutical practitioners have a professional responsibility to educate the public on the products they are purchase in pharmacies.

He also advised the public to avoid self-medication and to buy drugs only when prescribed by a medical practitioner.

He stated that PPB is working with multi-agencies to ensure that the public have access to



PPB, Head of Lower Eastern Region Office, Dr. Benson Kanji addresses delegates at the event

quality, safe and efficacious medical products in the country.

"We have regional offices and gazetted ports of entries manned by qualified inspectors to safeguard public health," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRESS RELEASE ON ILLEGAL TRADE OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS ON E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board's mandate is to protect and promote the health of the public by regulating the profession of pharmacy and ensuring access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable health products and technologies.

It has come to the attention of the Board that some e-commerce platforms, are trading in medical products, including prescription only medicines, in total disregard to the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (CAP 244, Laws of Kenya. The Board is working with the Communications Authority of Kenya to pull down the concerned domains and is carrying out investigations on all online platforms involved in the said illegality so as to take necessary regulatory actions on persons and parties involved.

In this regard therefore, we appeal to the members of the public to buy medical products only from authorized premises whose license status can easily be verified using a health safety code visibly placed in medicine outlets by sending an **SMS to 21031**.

The Board would also like to thank the members of the public for the continued engagement in matters that involve safe use of medical products and welcome any feedback by calling us on **0709770100** or sending an email at **admin@pharmacyboardkenya.org** and **pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org**.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

PUBLIC STATEMENT

PUBLIC ALERT: USE OF DICLOFENAC FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (the Board) is mandated under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Cap 244) to disseminate information on medical products to health professionals and to the public in order to promote their rational use. The Board therefore wishes to draw the attention of the public to the use of 'Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs' (NSAIDs), specifically Diclofenac for pain management.

NSAIDs as a class, if used at high dose and for long periods, are associated with an increased risk of blood clots in the arteries especially in patients with underlying heart or circulatory conditions or with certain cardiovascular risk factors, which in some cases has led to heart attack or stroke. Diclofenac is a widely used medicine for relieving pain and inflammation, particularly in painful conditions such as arthritis. Overall, the benefits of diclofenac are greater than its risks. Therefore, to mitigate the risks associated with use of diclofenac, the public is notified of the following:

- There is a small risk of heart attack or stroke in patients taking systemic diclofenac regularly, especially at high doses (150 mg daily) and for long periods;
- Use of diclofenac is no longer recommended for patients with history of a heart attack or stroke, heart failure, blockages to blood vessels to the heart or brain or have had an operation to clear or bypass such blockages, or circulatory problems that restrict blood flow to your limbs;
- If you smoke or have other risk factors such as high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, your doctor will need to assess if you should use diclofenac and the best way to take it;
- If you are on long-term diclofenac treatment you will need to have your treatment reviewed to ensure that it is still right for you. You are advised to speak to your prescriber at your next scheduled appointment;
- You should not stop taking your treatment without talking to your health professional;
- If you have any questions, speak with your health professional:

The Board advises the public against self-medication with pain killers, especially diclofenac. Diclofenac should only be dispensed or used upon prescription by a duly qualified health professional.

The Board would like to thank the public for the continued efforts to ensure safe use of medicines and encourage them to provide feedback by contacting the Board through 0795 743 040 or sending an email to pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org or report any suspected adverse events or quality defects on medical products and health technologies at <http://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
4TH MARCH 2022



Pharmacy and
Poisons Board

DANGERS OF SELF-MEDICATION

Self-medication has potential risks such as;

- 1 Hiding of severe disease hence delay in seeking medical advice
- 2 Wrong identification of diseases leading to wrong choice of medicines
- 3 Can lead to side effects (mild, moderate to severe)
- 4 Exposure to harmful medicines interactions
- 5 Other risks include wrong dosages, wrong route of administration, risk of medicines abuse and addiction

For more information visit: www.pharmacyboardkenya.org



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PPB Newsletter

Guaranteeing Quality and Safety of Medicines