



# PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

NEWSLETTER

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**Pharmacy and Poisons Board  
Inks Deal with Ecumenical  
Pharmaceutical Network to Boost  
Maternal and Neonatal Health in  
Kenya**

→ Story Page 14



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

# **AVOID SELF-MEDICATION!**

Taking medicine without medical advice can be dangerous.

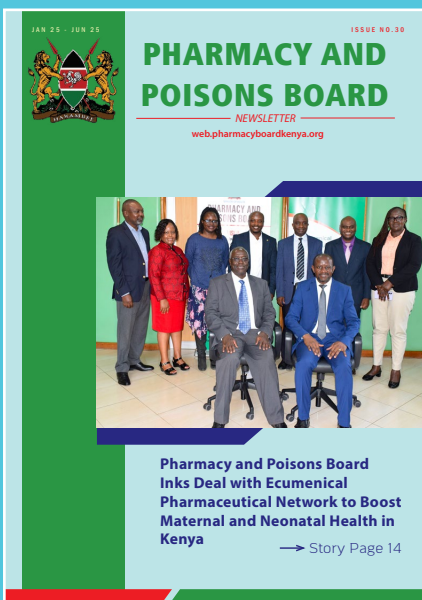
Always consult a doctor or pharmacist.

Buy medicines only from PPB-registered outlets.

**Verify here:**

[practice.pharmacyboardkenya.org/Licensestatus?register=facilities](https://practice.pharmacyboardkenya.org/Licensestatus?register=facilities)

**Ensuring quality, safe, efficacious and affordable health products and technologies in Kenya**



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The PPB Newsletter is a publication of the Corporate Communication Division. 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

## Service and progress

Welcome to this edition of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) Newsletter.

In this issue, we share updates on regulatory developments, stakeholder engagements, and innovations enhancing the safety, quality, and efficacy of health products in Kenya.

We thank our partners for their continued support in safeguarding public health.

Share your views with us at [pr@ppb.go.ke](mailto:pr@ppb.go.ke).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Assessment of the WHO Maturity Level 3**



## PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

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Pharmacy and Poisons Board



@ppbkenya



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# Health CS Duale Rallies Pharmacists to Embrace Full Digitization for Sector Accountability



*Health Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Aden Duale addresses PSK 45th Conference participants in Mombasa*

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has called for the complete digitization of Kenya's pharmaceutical sector, citing the urgent need to enhance accountability, eliminate counterfeit medicines, and strengthen healthcare delivery across the country.

Speaking during the official opening of the 45th Annual Scientific Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK) in Mombasa on 18th June, 2025, Hon. Duale emphasized that digitization is central to the government's health reforms and the broader Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda under the Taifa Care programme.

"We are phasing out paper records completely. Every prescription and transaction will be digitally recorded and tracked," said Hon. Duale. "Digitization is not optional. It is how we protect patients, ensure value for money, and build a trusted, responsive pharmaceutical sector."

The CS outlined the key pillars of the Digital Health Superhighway, which

includes electronic prescriptions, e-dispensing, real-time tracking of pharmaceuticals, and full integration of community pharmacies into the national health system. He expressed concern over the threat posed by counterfeit drugs, often distributed through informal channels, and said the new system will close such regulatory gaps.

Hon. Duale praised Mombasa County for being among the first devolved units to pioneer digital health solutions. He further urged pharmacists to play a proactive role in driving pharmaceutical reforms, outlining five priorities for the sector:

expanding local manufacturing, achieving regulatory excellence, digitizing supply chain systems, enhancing pharmacovigilance, and integrating pharmacy services into the Social Health Authority (SHA) benefits package.

In a major boost to workforce development, the CS announced the posting of 500 intern pharmacists beginning August 1st. He also revealed plans to elevate Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) to a full directorate within the Ministry, underlining the government's commitment to improved governance in the sector.

The Cabinet Secretary challenged members of PSK to champion innovation, accountability, and digital transformation across the pharmaceutical value chain.





## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Advances Regulatory Priorities at 45th PSK Scientific Conference



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chairman, Dr. Charles Githinji makes his remarks during the conference*

The regulatory session at the 45th Annual Scientific Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK), held on June 20, 2025, provided a dynamic platform for discussion on strengthening pharmaceutical regulation in Kenya. Chaired by Dr. F. M. Siyoi, Chief Executive Officer of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), the session highlighted key regulatory developments and ongoing reforms.

In his opening remarks, PPB Chairman Dr. Charles Githinji reaffirmed the Board's firm commitment to supporting pharmacists across all practice areas. "We are focused. We are listening. And I assure you—your concerns will be addressed through strong, responsive, and technically grounded leadership to make pharmacy thrive," he stated.



Dr. Githinji emphasized several priorities driving the Board's agenda, including enforcement of Good Pharmacy Practices, proper scheduling and classification of medicines, and active engagement with the Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) Bill currently before the Senate. "We are monitoring its progress to ensure that the voice of the pharmacy profession is reflected. Regulation is a core mandate of government, and I am personally committed to ensuring full implementation of the commitments we make," he added.

The session featured strong participation from key PPB directorates—Health Products and Technologies, Corporate Services, and Pharmacy Practice—who outlined ongoing regulatory progress. Dr. Siyoi reiterated the

Board's dedication to elevating regulatory standards nationwide and noted that PPB is at an advanced stage in its pursuit of World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3 status.

Panel discussions, spotlighted priority actions underway to enhance service delivery and patient safety. These include proactive post-marketing surveillance, capacity-building in pharmacovigilance, initiation of bioequivalence studies, and development of regulatory frameworks to support specialization in pharmacy practice.

The session reinforced PPB's position as a technically competent, stakeholder-driven institution committed to securing a safe, responsive, and accountable pharmaceutical sector.



*The 45th Pharmaceutical Society's Annual Scientific conference participants*



## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Reaffirms Commitment to Protecting Public Health at PSK Conference



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Director of Corporate Services, Dr. Anthony Toroitich makes his remarks during the PSK Conference*

On June 19, 2025, during the 45th Annual Scientific Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK), a breakout session titled “Navigating New Frontiers: Regulatory Affairs and Pharmacists in a Maturing Global Health Landscape” highlighted the Pharmacy and Poisons Board’s (PPB) commitment to advancing public health through strengthened regulatory systems.

Dr. Anthony Toroitich, Director of Corporate Services at PPB, shared the Board’s ongoing progress toward attaining the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Benchmarking Maturity Level 3. He noted that PPB is advancing across eight regulatory functions, reinforcing its dedication to aligning Kenya’s regulatory systems with international standards to support a resilient health sector.

A panel discussion on June 19,

2025, addressed the parallel importation of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs). Dr. Gachoki Kariuki, Deputy Director for Product Registration and Evaluation at PPB, emphasized that affordability and access remain the core drivers



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Deputy Director of Product Evaluation and Registration, Dr. Gachoki Kariuki during a panel discussion at PSK Conference*

of parallel importation, ensuring patients can obtain affordable medicines and that grassroots populations can access essential health products.

Dr. Kariuki underscored that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a policy issue and acknowledged the positive role parallel importation has played in advancing access goals. He further highlighted PPB’s efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight through enhanced post-market surveillance and pharmacovigilance, calling for increased investment in these areas.

He urged pharmacists to actively support the system by reporting any suspected poor-quality products via available platforms, emphasizing that pharmacovigilance must operate at both professional and public levels to safeguard patient safety.

## Kenya Hosts Regional Bioequivalence Training to Boost Regulatory Capacity Across Africa

On June 16, 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), in partnership with the Global Health Protection

Programme (GHPP) and the PharmTrain2 initiative, launched a five-day regional workshop

aimed at strengthening regulatory capacity in the assessment of bioequivalence (BE) studies.



The workshop brought together regulatory experts from Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Egypt, and both Mainland and Zanzibar Tanzania. It focused on enhancing skills in evaluating clinical study reports, a critical component in the regulation of generic medicines.

Spearheaded by the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), the PharmTrain2 initiative provides specialized training to



*Workshop participants pose for a group photo after the workshop*



*Participants follow proceedings during the workshop*

four African regulatory authorities designated as Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence (RCOREs).

Bioequivalence assessment is vital to ensuring generic medicines meet stringent quality, safety, and efficacy standards. Strengthening this capacity allows regulators to make better-informed decisions and boosts public confidence in generic alternatives.

The training also highlights Kenya's growing leadership in

pharmaceutical research, as the country has been recognized as a Centre of Excellence in Bioequivalence and Pharmaceutical Research.

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to develop a strong network of Trainers of Trainers across Africa, establish sustainable regulatory systems, support local manufacturing, and increase access to high-quality, affordable medicines continent-wide.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO Commends Pharmacists for Leadership in Strengthening Kenya's Pharmaceutical Industry



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi makes his remarks at the University of Nairobi School of Pharmacy*

On May 30, 2025, during the University of Nairobi School of Pharmacy's 50th anniversary symposium, Pharmacy and

Poisons Board (PPB) CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi praised pharmacists for their critical role in advancing Kenya's self-reliance in health products and technologies through leadership in local pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Dr. Siyoi credited the rise of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)-compliant facilities to the profession's sustained commitment to pharmaceutical excellence. "This leadership has strengthened Kenya's pharmaceutical supply chain, enhanced medicine security, and positioned the country as a regional manufacturing hub," he said.

The symposium, themed "Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Pharmacy Training and Practice –



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Deputy Director of Product Safety, Dr. Christabel Khaemba, during the symposium*

Transforming Healthcare, Shaping the Future," gathered academia, regulators, industry stakeholders, and students to mark five decades



*Participants follow proceeding during the symposium*

of impact in pharmacy education, research, and practice.

Dr. Siyoi acknowledged the University of Nairobi School of Pharmacy as a key driver in shaping Kenya's pharmaceutical landscape, noting that many alumni now hold senior regulatory and technical roles at PPB and across the public health sector.

He highlighted PPB's regulatory milestones, including professional registration, product evaluation, clinical trial oversight, and pharmacovigilance. He noted that partnerships between PPB and the pharmacy profession have fostered incentives such as expedited product registration, facilitated market access, and tax waivers to boost local manufacturing.

"These collaborations are strategic tools for improving access to quality-assured medicines and building resilient health systems," Dr. Siyoi remarked.

Further, he introduced the Integrated Regulatory Management System (IRMS), a digital platform designed to streamline licensing,

product authorization, professional registration, pharmacovigilance, and inspections. "This innovation enables stakeholders to engage with regulators via a secure, centralized portal—cutting paperwork, enhancing transparency, and improving turnaround times," he explained.

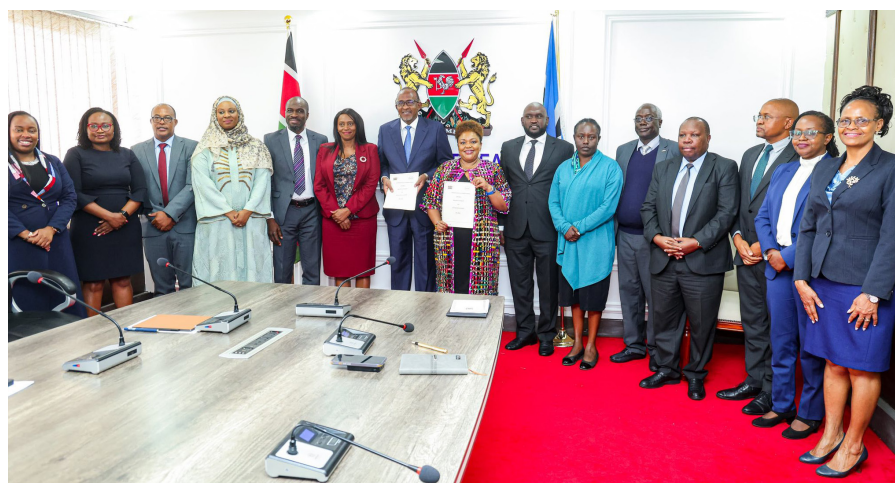
Looking forward, Dr. Siyoi called for greater investment in competency-based training, interdisciplinary research, and development of a future-ready regulatory workforce, urging the University of Nairobi to lead this next phase. He reaffirmed PPB's commitment to ongoing collaboration in support of Kenya's national development objectives.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO Joins CS Health During Roche MoU Signing



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer during the MoU signing at the Ministry of Health*

On May 29, 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi, joined Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health—through the Social Health Authority (SHA)—and Roche East Africa. This landmark partnership aims to reduce the cost of breast cancer treatment sessions from KES 120,000 to KES 40,000,



with no co-payment required from patients, marking a significant milestone in advancing equitable access to cancer care across Kenya. At the ceremony, Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale reiterated the Ministry's commitment to delivering quality healthcare and issued a stern warning to those engaged in illegal pharmaceutical practices. He urged the Pharmacy and Poisons Board to intensify routine inspections nationwide to close unauthorized outlets and protect patient safety. Furthermore, the Cabinet Secretary

highlighted the Track and Trace initiative as a crucial tool for enhancing post-market surveillance and eliminating counterfeit medicines from the supply chain. The PPB received commendations for its robust efforts in post-market surveillance, which remain vital to maintaining the integrity of Kenya's pharmaceutical sector.





# Pharmacy and Poisons Board Conducts Nationwide Crackdown on Illegal Pharmaceutical Activities



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Head of Central Region, Dr. James Gathogo during a press briefing in Murang'a*

On May 27, 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), with support from the National Police Service, carried out a comprehensive countrywide crackdown targeting illegal pharmaceutical activities. The initiative aims to eliminate unlawful practices within the pharmaceutical sector and protect public health.

Speaking to the media in Murang'a, Dr. James Gathogo, Head of the



*Mr. Issack Tadicha carries medicines seized during the crackdown*

Central Region, reaffirmed the PPB's commitment to ensuring that all pharmaceutical outlets are operated by qualified personnel to safeguard patient safety.

Dr. Gathogo emphasized the dangers of self-medication, warning that it can result in complicated health outcomes or addiction. He also called on pharmaceutical professionals to maintain strict compliance with regulations and uphold self-regulation at all times.



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Drug Inspectors, Dr. John Tola and Mr. Issack Tadicha during a crackdown in Murang'a*

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Engages Stakeholders to Strengthen Pharmacovigilance and Surveillance of Health Products

On May 23, 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), through its Pharmacovigilance and Post Market Surveillance divisions, held a stakeholder engagement meeting in Nairobi focused on enhancing collaboration to ensure access to safe, quality, and effective health products

and technologies (HPTs).

The meeting was part of ongoing support under the AU-3S Smart Safety Surveillance Project led by AUDA-NEPAD, which aims to advance pharmacovigilance efforts across the African region. In her keynote address, Dr. Christabel Khaemba, Deputy



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Head of Marketing Surveillance, Dr. Edward Abwao addresses the meeting participants*





*A group photo of the meeting participants*

Director for Product Safety, highlighted the critical importance of cooperation between the Board and Market Authorization Holders (MAHs) in maintaining high standards of public health protection.

Participants, including local and international MAHs, were introduced to recent upgrades in the National Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System



*Dr. Eva Maina, a meeting participant makes her remarks*



*Dr. Christabel Khaemba and Dr. Pamela Nambwa during the meeting*

(PvERS). The enhanced system now allows MAHs to directly submit individual case safety reports and aggregated safety data in the E2B format.

Stakeholders demonstrated strong commitment to ongoing engagement with PPB to further strengthen pharmacovigilance and post-market surveillance, ensuring patient safety remains central to regulatory efforts.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Hosts KAPI and MEDAK to Strengthen Collaboration

On 22nd May 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) hosted the Kenya Association of Pharmaceutical Industry (KAPI), led by Chairman Dr. James Mokoro, for a consultative meeting focused on regulatory and policy issues affecting the pharmaceutical sector. The session, chaired by Dr. Ahmed Mohamed, Director of Health Products and Technologies, highlighted key priorities to enhance regulation and safeguard public health.



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Director of Health Products and Technologies, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed chairs a meeting with KAPI*

Earlier that week, PPB also engaged with Medical Devices Stakeholders (MEDAK) to discuss sector-specific challenges and improve service delivery efficiency within the medical devices industry.



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Deputy Director of Product Evaluation and Registration makes his remarks during the meeting*





# Public Health and Professional Standards PS Visits Pharmacy and Poisons Board



*Public Health and Professional Standards PS, Mary Muthoni addresses PPB Staff*

On 27th February 2025, the Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms. Mary Muthoni, emphasized the critical need for strong regulatory oversight in pharmacy practice to uphold standards and protect public health. She highlighted the urgent challenge posed by



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chairman, Dr. Charles Githinji makes his remarks during the PS visit*

counterfeit and substandard medicines entering the country through porous borders.

During a meeting at the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), PSMuthoni called on staff to take ownership of their roles and maintain a strong commitment to excellence. She underscored that achieving World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3 is a vital milestone in strengthening Kenya's pharmaceutical regulatory framework.



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi during the meeting*

Ms. Muthoni further stressed the importance of raising public awareness on medicine safety as a key strategy in combating antimicrobial resistance. She also pointed to the essential role of pharmaceutical commodities in advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The meeting was attended by PPB Chairman Dr. Charles Githinji, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) Chairman Mr. Samuel Tunai, Ministry of Health officials, PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi, Directors, and PPB staff.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Inks Deal with Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network to Boost Maternal and Neonatal Health in Kenya



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer and EPN Executive Director sign the MoU*

On 14th May 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding

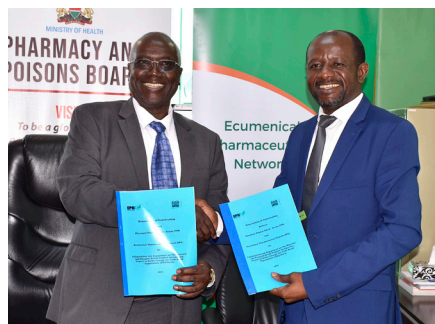


*EPN Executive Director, Dr. Richard Neci Cizungu during the meeting*

(MoU) with the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) to enhance maternal and neonatal health (MNCH) in Kenya. This partnership aims to introduce quality-assured health products while strengthening regulatory compliance and post-market surveillance.

During the signing ceremony, PPB Chief Executive Officer Dr. F. M. Siyoi described the collaboration as a crucial step toward ensuring





*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi chairs the meeting with EPN*

Kenyans have access to safe, effective, and quality health products. He also praised the longstanding cooperation between PPB and EPN members, including the Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS).

EPN Executive Director Dr. Richard Neci Cizungu thanked PPB for the partnership opportunity, noting that the MoU sets a strong



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Director, Corporate Services, Dr. Anthony Toroitich addresses the meeting participants*



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Head of Post Marketing Surveillance, Dr. Edward Abwao makes his remarks during the meeting*



foundation for reinforcing health systems and advancing public health goals.

The event was also attended by EPN Board Chairman Dr. Stephen Kigera and officials from both PPB and EPN.

## Independent Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant Services Engages Pharmacy and Poisons Board

On 13th May 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) hosted the newly constituted Independent Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant Services as part of their ongoing stakeholder consultations within the health sector.

During the visit, the committee sought to deepen its understanding of the roles and mandates of key



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi addresses the meeting participants*

actors within the Ministry of Health, especially regarding the delivery of quality healthcare services.

PPB Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi, welcomed the team and outlined the Board's responsibilities in regulating health products and technologies, emphasizing the focus on ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medical products. He also highlighted the





Board's authority in issuing import and export permits for medical products under the applicable laws and regulations.

Dr. Siyoi reaffirmed the critical role

of inter-agency collaboration in strengthening Kenya's national regulatory system and aligning it with global best practices to safeguard public health.



## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Reaffirms Commitment to Safe, Quality Health Products



*Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei during the conference*



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chairman, Dr. Charles Githinji during the 2nd RAA Conference*



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi makes his remarks at the 2nd RAA Conference*

On 30th April 2025, during the 2nd Regulatory Authorities and Agencies (RAAs) Conference held in Eldoret, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring Kenyans have access to safe, quality, and effective health products and technologies (HPTs).

PPB Chief Executive Officer Dr. F. M. Siyoi outlined the Board's strategic reforms, including digitization of regulatory services and adoption of risk-based enforcement approaches such as suspending personnel, closing non-compliant premises, and recalling or quarantining unsafe products.

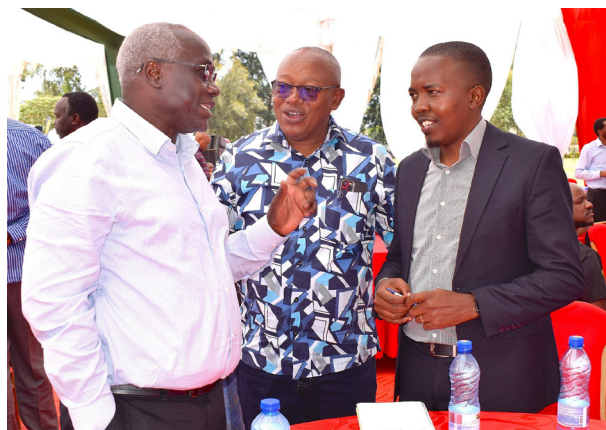
The conference, officially opened by Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Mr. Felix Koskei, gathered Principal Secretaries, board chairpersons, and heads

of regulatory bodies to review progress and renew commitments to responsive regulation.

Dr. Siyoi highlighted PPB's advanced progress toward achieving World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3 status, which will elevate Kenya as a regional leader in pharmaceutical regulation and support local pharmaceutical manufacturing.

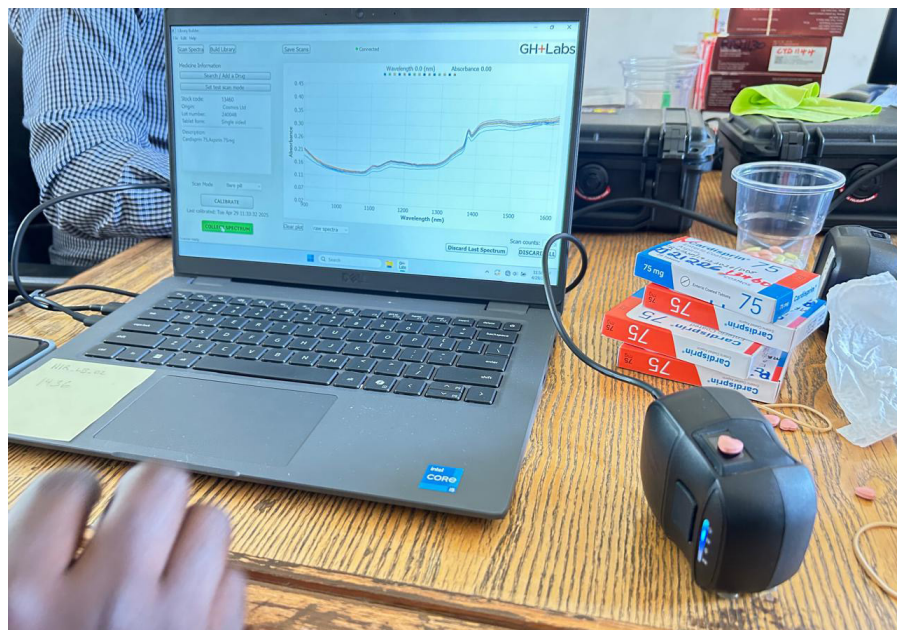
He acknowledged ongoing challenges like informal distribution outlets, falsified and substandard products, and resistance from some stakeholders but affirmed the Board's steadfast role in oversight.

As the WHO-designated Regional Centre of Excellence for Pharmacovigilance in Africa, PPB facilitates continental knowledge sharing on drug safety. Dr. Siyoi called for stronger collaboration with the Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and National Police Service to enhance enforcement and protect public health.





# Pharmacy and Poisons Board Builds Near Infrared (NIR) Reference Library to Enhance Medicine Surveillance



*The Post Marketing Surveillance team during the activity*



*Mr. Luke Mayio during the exercise*

Between 28th April and 2nd May 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) conducted a key activity to build a Near Infrared (NIR) reference library aimed at strengthening Post-Marketing Surveillance of medical products

across Kenya.

The NIR technology provides a cost-effective, rapid, and non-destructive method for assessing the quality of medicines available in the market. This initiative underscores PPB's

commitment to safeguarding the safety, efficacy, and quality of health products accessible to Kenyans.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Joins Tree Planting Drive in West Pokot



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board staff among other tree planting participants in West Pokot County*

On 24th April 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) participated in a tree planting exercise at Kanyaltin in Lelan Forest,

West Pokot County. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's State Department of Public Health and

Professional Standards, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council, County Government of West Pokot, County Commissioner, and other partners.

The event aimed to restore ecosystems, promote environmental health, and support Kenya's national agenda to increase forest cover as part of the government's climate action commitments. Tree growing is recognized not just as planting seedlings, but as a lasting investment in the planet's health, climate resilience, and the well-being of future generations.





*The tree planting exercise at West Pokot County*



## Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO Hosts Key Partner Agencies to Strengthen Medical Products Regulation



*PG-Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F. M. Siyoi chairs a meeting with key partner agencies*

On 10th April 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), led by CEO Dr. F.M. Siyoi, hosted representatives from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kenya



*A KRA representative makes his remarks during the meeting*

Bureau of Standards (KEBS), and KenTrade to reinforce inter-agency collaboration in regulating medical products at points of entry.

Dr. Siyoi emphasized the critical role of joint efforts in ensuring that all medical products entering Kenya are safe, effective, and of assured quality, in line with PPB's mandate to protect public health.



He noted that achieving the World Health Organization's Maturity Level 3 (WHO ML3) hinges on active collaboration among regulatory bodies.

The meeting highlighted the importance of information sharing and coordinated action, particularly during pre-authorization processes and intelligence exchange, as essential to overcoming regulatory challenges.

The KRA delegation was led by Laura Chao, Chief Manager, Revenue Monitoring Unit, Customs & Border Control; KenTrade by Fridah Kaberia, Director of Strategy & Business Development; and KEBS by Eric Ochieng, Chief Manager, Quality Inspection Department. All parties committed to complementing each other's efforts to safeguard the integrity of Kenya's medical product supply chain and ensure that only safe, compliant health technologies reach the market.





## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Leadership Signs Performance Contract at Ministry of Health



Health CS, Hon. Aden Duale, Public Health PS, Ms. Mary Muthoni, Pharmacy and Poisons Board Chairman, Dr. Charles Githinji, CEO, Dr. F. M. Siyoi during the PC signing

On 9th April 2025, the Chairperson of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), Dr. Charles Githinji, together with CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi, signed the Board's Performance Contract for the Financial Year 2024/2025. The ceremony was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Aden Duale.

In his remarks, the Cabinet Secretary underscored the significance of performance contracts in the public sector, noting that they help institutions establish clear, measurable targets aligned with national priorities. He emphasized that this process strengthens accountability and cultivates a results-driven culture across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

## CONGRATULATIONS DR. PAULYNE WAIRIMU ON YOUR ELECTION AS CHAIR OF AFRICAN MEDICAL DEVICES FORUM



Dr. Paulyne Wairimu, Head Medical Devices, Pharmacy and Poisons Board

Congratulations Dr. Paulyne Wairimu, Medical Devices Lead at the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, on your election as Chair of the African Medical Devices Forum (AMDF) for the 2025–2028 term. This election, endorsed by African Union member states during the 2nd Heads of Market Authorization meeting held in Addis Ababa, highlights your exceptional expertise and leadership in advancing medical devices regulation across Africa. We wish you, Dr. Wairimu, every success as you lead AMDF in promoting safe, effective, and quality medical technologies throughout the continent.

## World Bank Team Engages Pharmacy and Poisons Board on Health Emergency Preparedness



*Pharmacy and Poisons Chief Executive Officer, (center) during the meeting with visiting World Bank team*

On 26th March 2025, a delegation from the World Bank visited the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) to review progress on the Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Program (HEPPR). The meeting was held

with PPB Chief Executive Officer Dr. F. M. Siyoi.

The HEPPR program, part of the World Bank's Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA), is designed to support countries in strengthening their capacity to

prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies such as pandemics and epidemics.

During the discussions, the team and PPB leadership reviewed Kenya's ongoing efforts to achieve World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3 status for regulatory systems. They also explored progress in local pharmaceutical manufacturing and identified key areas where additional support is needed to further enhance capacity building within the pharmaceutical sector.



*Dr. Anthony Toroitich, Director Corporate Services, shares his views during the meeting*

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Engages County Pharmacists to Strengthen Regulation of Health Products and Technologies



*Dr. Dominic Kariuki, Inspectorate and Enforcement addresses workshop participants*

On 24th March 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) convened a two-day workshop with county pharmacists to enhance the



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board Director of Pharmacy Practice and Training, Dr. Wilfred Ochieng makes his remarks during the workshop*

regulation of health products and technologies throughout Kenya.

The workshop aimed to foster collaboration and establish a formal framework for joint action through a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Dr. Dominic Kariuki, Deputy Director of Inspectorate and Enforcement at PPB, opened the workshop on behalf of CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi. He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to working closely with county pharmacists to ensure that health products remain safe, effective, and accessible to all Kenyans.

Key focus areas discussed included the safe transport of





*Dr. Christable Khaemba, Deputy Director, Product Safety address the workshop participants*

pharmaceuticals, proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste, sourcing medicines exclusively from licensed

practitioners, employing qualified personnel, reporting substandard products, and educating the public on regulated health products.

Dr. Kariuki emphasized that these measures are vital to protecting public health and maintaining professional standards within the sector. The MoU, scheduled for signing at the workshop's conclusion, will formalize collaboration and guide the implementation of agreed priorities.

County pharmacists welcomed the initiative, noting that it will improve their capacity to



*Mr. Julius Kaluai during the workshop*

regulate pharmaceutical practices at the grassroots level. The engagement marks a significant step toward strengthening Kenya's pharmaceutical regulatory system and safeguarding the health of its citizens.

Among the attendees were Dr. Wilfred Ochieng, Director of Pharmacy Practice and Training; Dr. Christabel Khaemba, Deputy Director for Product Safety; division heads; regional leads; and county regulatory officers.



*Workshop participants follow proceedings*

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Signs MoU with Competition Authority of Kenya



On 27th February 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) and the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK)

formalized a partnership to address key challenges in Kenya's pharmaceutical sector. During a meeting held that day, both



*Competition Authority of Kenya Director, Competition and Consumer Protection, Amenity Omari shares his remarks during the meeting*



organizations emphasized the need for coordinated action to protect consumers effectively.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), PPB and CAK will collaborate to combat the spread of substandard and falsified medicines, promote ethical business conduct, and eliminate anti-competitive practices within



the pharmaceutical market. The partnership also aims to raise consumer awareness and ensure a safer, more transparent pharmaceutical environment across the country.

*(Photo): Pharmacy and Poisons Board Director of Corporate Services during the meeting*

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Disseminates Results for AEFI Toolkit Survey



*Participants pose for a group photo after the meeting*

On 22nd April 2025, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), led by CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi, hosted representatives from the African Collaborating Centre (ACC) Ghana for Pharmacovigilance. Established to meet regional pharmacovigilance needs, ACC conducts studies and collaborates with governments, health organizations, and international partners.

During the meeting, the results



*Meeting participants follow proceedings*

of the Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) toolkit pilot survey—conducted from February 2024 to February 2025 in Kiambu and Nakuru counties—were disseminated. Developed by the Global Immunization Division's Workforce Development and Global Immunization Safety Team in consultation with working groups, the toolkit aims to address barriers to AEFI reporting among healthcare workers in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria.

PPB CEO Dr. Siyoi highlighted the critical importance of identifying and reporting AEFI to ensure patient safety, urging healthcare



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO, Dr. F. M. Siyoi makes his remarks during the meeting*

providers to integrate safety monitoring of health products and technologies into daily practice.

ACC delegation lead Professor Alex Dodoo emphasized the significance of collaboration between Kenya and Ghana in strengthening pharmacovigilance systems across Africa. Both countries serve as Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence (RCoRE). Accompanying Prof. Dodoo were Dr. Sharon Naakordai Laryea, Mrs. Bernice Owusu-Boakye, and Mrs. Evelyn Tweneboah Addo.



*A Participant shares her views during the meeting*



*Pharmacy and Poisons Board CEO and Professor Alex Dodoo pose for a photo*





REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
**PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ADVISORY ON THE STORAGE, HANDLING, AND FORMULATION OF  
HEALTH PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES (HPTS)**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (the Board), the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (CAP 244), regulates Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) and the pharmacy profession. A key mandate is ensuring patient safety through Post-Market Surveillance (PMS).

The Board has received multiple market complaints regarding HPT degradation, often linked to improper storage and handling. These issues pose a significant risk to product quality, safety, and efficacy, ultimately affecting patient health outcomes.

All manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and healthcare facilities must store and handle HPTs according to manufacturer-specified temperature and humidity conditions. Strict adherence to Good Distribution Practices (GDP) is essential to prevent product degradation and maintain product integrity across the supply chain. Manufacturers must ensure that any HPT formulation intended for distribution in Kenya is designed, developed, and tested to withstand high-temperature and high-humidity environmental conditions.

Marketing authorization holders are therefore required to comply with the following:

1. Conduct stability studies in accordance with ICH Zone IVb climatic conditions to ensure the formulation maintains quality, safety, and efficacy throughout its shelf life;
2. Implement robust packaging to protect products from moisture, heat, and environmental stressors;
3. Clearly label storage conditions and special handling instructions on all product packaging to ensure effective communication with distributors and healthcare providers;
4. Provide adequate training and guidance to all supply chain stakeholders on best practices for handling temperature-sensitive products.

The Board will conduct inspections and compliance audits to enforce these requirements. Non-compliance may result in regulatory action, including product recalls, license suspension, or other enforcement measures.

We urge all stakeholders to take immediate action to comply with these directives and ensure the integrity of HPTs from manufacturing to end-user distribution. For further clarification, please contact the Board at [pms@ppb.go.ke](mailto:pms@ppb.go.ke)

Thank you for your cooperation in safeguarding public health.

Dr. F. M. Siyoi

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

## PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

## PUBLIC ALERT

**SUBSTANDARD BATCHES OF PARACETAMOL 1000MG/100ML INJECTION  
(LUMIDOL, PARAGEN, AND BLINK INJECTION)**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (hereinafter “the Board”) is the National Regulatory Authority under the Ministry of Health, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244, Laws of Kenya (hereinafter “the Act”) mandated to protect and promote the health of the public by regulating the profession of pharmacy and ensuring access to quality, safe and efficacious health products and technologies.

In execution of the foregoing mandate, the Board draws public attention to the detection of substandard batches of Paracetamol 1000mg/100ml Injection identified in the Kenyan market, which have exhibited a color change.

1. **Lumidol Injection:** Batch Numbers **CM4594007**, **CM4594008**, and **CM4594009**, Manufactured by KamlaAmrut Pharmaceutical LLP, India.
2. **Blink Injection:** Batch Numbers **CS4594005** and **CS4594004** Manufactured by KamlaAmrut Pharmaceutical LLP, India.
3. **Paragen injection:** Batch Number **K4290027**, Manufactured by KamlaAmrut Pharmaceutical LLP, India.

In view of the above, the Board advises all pharmaceutical outlets, healthcare facilities, healthcare professionals, and members of the public to **IMMEDIATELY CEASE** further distribution, sale, issuing, or use of the outlined product batches and return the same to their nearest healthcare facility or respective suppliers

The Board encourages the public to report any suspected cases of sub-standard medicines or adverse drug reactions to the nearest healthcare facility or the Pharmacy and Poisons Board through the following channels:

- Online <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/users/mpublic>
- USSD code at \*271#
- Mobile application: mPvERS both Android & iOS
- Email [pv@ppb.go.ke](mailto:pv@ppb.go.ke) or [pms@ppb.go.ke](mailto:pms@ppb.go.ke)
- Telephone No. 0795743049

The Board is committed to ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicines in the market to protect public health.

  
Dr. F. M. Siyoi  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**24<sup>TH</sup> April 2025**



**PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD****PUBLIC ALERT****MANDATED RECALL OF S-PRAZO (ESOMEPRAZOLE 40MG) BATCH NUMBER SPZ404 MANUFACTURED BY MEDICO REMEDIES PHARMACEUTICAL INDIA LIMITED**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (hereinafter “the Board”) is the National Regulatory Authority under the Ministry of Health, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244, Laws of Kenya (hereinafter “the Act”) mandated to protect and promote the health of the public by regulating the profession of pharmacy and ensuring access to quality, safe and efficacious health products and technologies.

In execution of the foregoing mandate, the Board draws public attention to the detection of product mix-up involving **S-Prazo (Esomeprazole 40mg) Batch No. SPZ404** wherein it was reported and confirmed that a strip of **Levofloxacin 500mg tablet** was found in a pack of Esomeprazole 40mg capsules.

In view of the above, the Board advises all pharmaceutical outlets, healthcare facilities, healthcare professionals, and members of the public to **IMMEDIATELY CEASE** further distribution, sale, issuing, or use of the outlined product batch and return the same to their nearest healthcare facility or respective suppliers.

The Board encourages the public to promptly report any suspected cases of sub-standard medicines or adverse drug reactions to the nearest healthcare facility or the Pharmacy and Poisons Board through the following channels:

- <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/users/mpublic>
- USSD code at \*271#
- Mobile application: mPvERS both Android & iOS
- Email [pms@ppb.go.ke](mailto:pms@ppb.go.ke) or [pv@ppb.go.ke](mailto:pv@ppb.go.ke)
- Telephone No. 0795743049

The Board assures the public of its commitment to protecting public health.

  
Dr. F. M. Siyoi  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2025**





REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# Pharmacy and Poisons Board



## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CERTAIN, **JUST SUSPICIOUS!!!**

Report the following to PPB using the forms available online:

- Suspected poor quality medical products
- Suspected side effects following use of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, blood and blood products
- Medication errors

You Can report through the channels below:

PUBLIC/PATIENTS	
Website	<a href="http://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/padrs/add">pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/padrs/add</a>
Phone	+254 795 743 049 or report to the nearest health facility

HEALTH WORKERS	
Website	<a href="http://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/">pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org">pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org</a>
Phone	+254 795 743 049

