



REGULATORY PULSE

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTORS

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2. LAGOS STATE'S NEW LAW ON ORGAN HARVESTING

The Lagos State Government has enacted the Human Organ Harvesting and Tissue Transplantation Law. The Law is designed to combat the illicit trade in human organs, ensuring that medical practices in the state adhere to the highest ethical standards. The Law provides a comprehensive legal framework for the regulation of organ harvesting and transplant.

It prohibits organ harvesting without proper authorisation and bans advertisements for the sale of human organs. Under this law, violators risk up to ten years imprisonment or a fine of N10,000,00.

The new regulatory framework is expected to reduce the incidence of organ trafficking, which is a major public health concern globally. It represents a significant step in safeguarding public health and safety by protecting individuals from exploitation.

1. NAFDAC'S NEW GMP REGULATIONS

This year, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) introduced new Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) regulations for food and food products in Nigeria. These regulations aim to ensure that all food products manufactured, imported, exported, or consumed in the country meet stringent safety, quality, and wholesomeness standards.

The GMP regulations provide a comprehensive framework for food manufacturers, outlining minimum requirements for quality systems, personnel, premises, equipment, and production processes. This includes establishing robust quality systems, maintaining clean and sanitary environments, and ensuring that all personnel are adequately trained and qualified.

NAFDAC has introduced these regulations to address growing concerns about food safety and quality in Nigeria. The Agency recognises that inadequate manufacturing practices could lead to contaminated or unsafe food products. This poses serious health risks to consumers. By enforcing these GMP standards, NAFDAC aims to safeguard public health.





3. THE CLOSURE OF OPEN DRUG MARKETS IN LAGOS, ONITSHA AND ABA

In an effort to safeguard public health, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) recently undertook a comprehensive operation to seal major open drug markets in Lagos, Onitsha, and Aba. This operation was aimed at eradicating the sale of counterfeit and substandard medications.

The proliferation of counterfeit and standard medications continues to pose significant risks to the health and safety of Nigerians. It is NAFDAC's statutory mandate to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale, and use of food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, bottled water, and chemicals. The agency is empowered by its enabling Act to take necessary measures to ensure compliance with safety standards and prevent the distribution of harmful products.

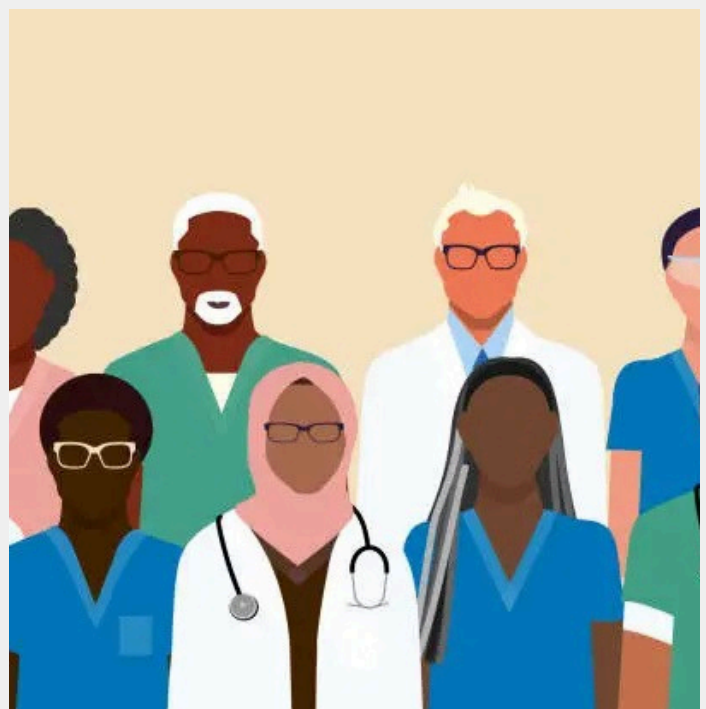
By closing these markets, NAFDAC has demonstrated its resolve to address a critical public health issue that continues to threaten lives. As the markets remain closed, we hope that this operation will pave the way for a safer, more regulated drug distribution system. Beyond this operation, there is the need for sustained vigilance and collaboration between regulatory bodies to consolidate on the gains of this operation.

4. NIGERIA'S VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH WORKFORCE

In August 2024, President Bola Tinubu approved the National Health Workforce Policy. The Policy aims to address the issue of health workers migration and the reintegration of diaspora professionals into the Nigerian health sector.

It is a comprehensive strategy designed to address the critical issue of healthcare professional migration in Nigeria, which has significantly impacted the country's ability to provide healthcare services. The policy aims to regulate and manage the outflow of healthcare professionals through a mix of incentives and accountability measures.

By retaining and attracting skilled healthcare workers, Nigeria can strengthen its healthcare system, ensuring better health outcomes for its population.





5. NAFDAC'S 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

NAFDAC has unveiled a comprehensive 2025 strategic plan aimed at enhancing public health safety in Nigeria. This plan is built around five key pillars: strong governance and leadership, maternal newborn and child health (MNCH), institutionalization of best practices, safety and quality of regulated products, and monitoring of the supply chain.

The strategic plan signals NAFDAC's commitment at ensuring that all food products, drugs and other related products meet the safety and quality standards.

This strategic plan is significant for public health safety. By strengthening regulatory structures, NAFDAC commits to safeguarding the health of the public.



6. GUIDELINES ON ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION SERVICES

On 6th March 2025, the Federal Government of Nigeria introduced the Standards & Guidelines for Establishing & Coordinating Organ/Tissue Transplantation Services in Nigeria. The Guidelines aims to regulate organ/ tissue donation and transplantation in the country. It addresses unethical practices around organ harvesting in the country.

The Guidelines addresses critical issues such as donor protection, transplant patient safety, informed consent requirements, ethical practices, and compliance mechanisms.

The Guidelines is a major step in the series of steps towards a robust framework for the regulation of organ/tissue donation and transplantation in the country. With its launch, all health institutions offering organ transplantation services must be registered and licensed. Further, there will be legal consequences for non-compliance with the provisions of the Guidelines.

This content is intended only to provide general information on the subject matter. It should not be construed as legal advice. You should seek specialist legal advice about your specific circumstances.

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