



REGULATORY PULSE

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTORS

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1. LAUNCH OF MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAMME

In April 2025, the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and its other partners launched comprehensive harm reduction strategies nationwide, including the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programme.

This initiative aims to provide medical assistance to drug users, reduce disease spread among people who inject drugs, and facilitate access to services for HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and mental health, with the final objective of getting drug users to stop the use of illicit substances.

This has implications for healthcare providers involved in addiction treatment.

2. NATIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY REGULATORY AGENCY (NHFRA)

The Federal Government has advanced plans to establish the National Healthcare Facility Regulatory Agency (NHFRA) with the official presentation of the report by the Committee on Establishment of National Healthcare Facility Regulatory Agency (NHFRA). The report contains recommendations on developing a framework for monitoring and regulating activities of healthcare facilities in the country.

The NHFRA is designed to fill regulatory gaps, set uniform standards of practice, and support state-level regulatory activities. This move aims to ensure all healthcare facilities comply with fundamental standards of care, directly affecting licensing, quality assurance, and compliance obligations for healthcare providers and facility owners.



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3. NIGERIA LAUNCHES NATIONAL GUIDELINES TO REDUCE MATERNAL DEATHS

Recently, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Health launched six national policy documents aimed at improving maternal health outcomes for Nigerian women.

The newly launched policy documents include a national Safe Motherhood Strategy, clinical protocols for managing postpartum haemorrhage, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, essential gynaecological skills manuals, a national strategy to improve the quality of reproductive and maternal care, and a training manual on managing obstetric fistula.



4. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE REGULATIONS (NEHRP) 2025 MANDATORY INCLUSION OF BIOEQUIVALENCE DATA IN DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS

The Federal government has unveiled the 2025 National Environmental Health Practice Regulation (NEHRP). The framework aims to strengthen environmental health governance in the country. The 2025 regulations aim to address various environmental health practices, particularly in relation to climate change. They replace the 2016 regulations.

The NEHRP 2025 has implications for healthcare providers who must ensure compliance with the proper medical waste disposal and sanitation standards provided in the NEHRP.



5. NAFDAC (PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS (TRACEABILITY) REGULATIONS, 2024

These Regulations provide regulatory framework for the traceability of drugs and related products manufactured, imported, distributed, sold or used in Nigeria.

These regulations mandate end-to-end traceability for all drugs and related products, from manufacturing to patient dispensation to promote patient safety, amongst other goals. They prescribe unique identification and labelling requirements for all pharmaceutical products.

6. ANTI-DOPING BILL PASSED INTO LAW

Recently, the Anti-doping Bill was signed into law. Domesticating the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, the law establishes an independent body to enforce global anti-doping standards, ensuring Nigerian athletes compete fairly while safeguarding their long-term health.

The Act mandates strict compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.



7. DOROTHY BEBE V. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA (ABORTION)

On 4th April 2025, the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) delivered its judgment in the case of Dorothy Bebe V. Federal Republic of Nigeria. The case bordered on allegations of human rights violations related to sexual violence, reproductive rights, and access to justice.

The Applicant, Ms Dorothy Bebe, a Nigerian citizen from Benue State had sued the Federal Government of Nigeria citing violations of her fundamental rights. The case arose from the from an incident in which Ms. Bebe, a minor at the time, was sexually assaulted in Abuja by an individual named Emmanuel. As a result of the assault, she became pregnant and could not access safe abortion services due to the Nigerian legal framework which criminalizes abortion in almost all situations. Ms Bebe claimed that the lack of access to health and psychological support worsened her situation, leading to long term suffering and economic hardship.

The court while acknowledging that the Nigerian legal framework on abortion contradicts Article 14(2)(c) of the Maputo Protocol, held that the Ms Bebe's evidence was insufficient to support her claims of violation of her right to health.

8. HEALTHCARE REFORMS

The Federal Government has recently unveiled a set of reforms aimed at transforming healthcare delivery and outcomes nationwide. A key highlight of these reforms is the creation of an investment pipeline exceeding \$5 billion, with more than 70 projects specifically structured to encourage robust private sector participation.

This initiative recognises the pivotal role the private sector plays in healthcare delivery. The pipeline is designed to attract private investments across various healthcare value chain, including telemedicine, digital health, infrastructure and specialist training. Additionally, the government has set an ambitious target to increase local production of health commodities to 70% by 2030.

These reforms highlights opportunities for public-private sector collaboration aimed at improving health outcomes and building a resilient and self-sustaining health system.



9. 50% ELECTRICITY SUBSIDY FOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS

The Federal Government has approved a 50% electricity subsidy for federal teaching hospitals and other public tertiary health institutions. The subsidy will slash operational costs for these institutions allowing them to redirect funds toward critical priorities.

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