



REGULATORY PULSE

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTORS

July 2025

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1. NAFDAC DRAFT MEDICAL DEVICES, INCLUDING IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTICS AND RELATED PRODUCTS REGULATIONS, 2025

On June 26, 2025, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed four landmark tax reform bills into law.

These laws are: the Nigeria Tax Act (NTA), The Nigeria Tax Administration Act (NTAA), The Nigeria Revenue Service Act (NRSA) and the Joint Revenue Board Act (JRBA), collectively referred to as “the Acts”. These laws will become effective from January 1, 2026.

These laws have implications for health and pharmaceutical businesses.

2. NAFDAC DRAFT REDUCTION OF SODIUM IN PRE-PACKAGED FOODS REGULATIONS, 2025

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has introduced the draft regulations for Sodium Reduction in Pre-Packaged Foods. The regulations aim to provide a regulatory framework for regulation and reduction of sodium in processed and pre-packaged foods manufactured or imported into Nigeria.

These regulations are opened for stakeholder comments until August 22, 2025. When fully enacted, the regulations would have compliance implications for companies involved in the manufacture and importation of processed and pre-packaged foods.

3. NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY AND STRATEGY

With the planned launch of the National Intellectual Policy and Strategy sometime in the year, healthcare and pharmaceutical businesses can hope to benefit from policy protection for their medical innovations, including proprietary treatment protocols, healthcare technologies, and medical devices.

The policy aims to support the existing legal and administrative frameworks for the protection and management for intellectual property rights in Nigeria.



4. PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS (PROHIBITION) BILL 2025

A bill seeking to prohibit public and civil servants from patronising private healthcare facilities and seeking medical care abroad is under legislative consideration at the House of Representatives.

Private healthcare providers face potential substantial revenue losses if the bill becomes law. The bill could also increase pressure on public healthcare facilities, potentially creating partnership opportunities for private providers to support public sector capacity.



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY

5. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE EXPANSION

With the expansion of the national health insurance scheme to cover health conditions such as HIV and tuberculosis, healthcare providers might need to recalibrate their business models to accommodate the expanded insured population while managing increased reimbursement rates.

6. NAFDAC DRAFT FOOD AND RELATED PRODUCTS REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 2025

The draft Food and Related Products Registration Regulations 2025 introduced by NAFDAC to regulate the manufacture, import, advertisement, sale and distribution of food and related products in Nigeria, is made further to the Food, Drug and Related Products (Registration etc.) Act cap F33 LFN 2004.

When fully enacted, the regulations will have implications for food companies in the country including requiring them to apply to register their food products.





7. CHILD PROTECTION

In July 2025, the Attorney-General launched the Prosecution Guidelines for Handling Cases Involving Children 2024 and Legal Aid Guidelines for Children in Conflict and Contact with the Law and Child Victims, 2024.

These guidelines aim to bridge implementation gaps in justice administration for children and promote non-custodial measures such as diversion and restorative justice.



8. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY (NHIA) GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENING

In July 2025, the Federal Government inaugurated the NHIA Governing Council, led by Senator Dr. Ibrahim Yahaya Oloriegbe as Chairman.

This development reflects the administration's commitment to expanding health insurance coverage, which has grown from 16.8 million to 20 million Nigerians in 2024. More than 800,000 new beneficiaries were reported to have enrolled through the Basic Health Care Provision Fund in the first half of 2025.

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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