



REGULATORY PULSE

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTORS

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1. NIGERIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY REFORM ACT

On August 5, 2025, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act (NIIRA) 2025 into law.

This Act has significant implications for health care providers, as it requires all providers, including mortuary services, to maintain professional indemnity insurance from a registered insurance company.

Additionally, it mandates that every employer, including hospitals, universities, and research institutes, must have a Group Life Assurance policy for each employee, with a minimum benefit equal to three times the employee's annual salary.

2. PRESIDENT TINUBU MANDATES HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL MDA'S

In line with the provisions of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act of 2022, President Bola Tinubu has mandated that all ministries, extra-ministerial departments, and agencies (MDAs) implement health insurance for their personnel.

The Act stipulates that all residents of Nigeria are required to secure health insurance coverage. This initiative is designed to enhance health coverage across the country, provide better protection for workers, minimise out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, and foster accountability within both the public and the private sectors.

As this directive unfolds, MDAs will need to ensure compliance and develop frameworks to support the effective implementation of mandatory health insurance for their employees.

3. NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR CHEMICAL EVENT SURVEILLANCE

The Federal Government has launched Nigeria's first National Guidelines for Chemical Event Surveillance, a critical step towards tackling the rising threats from chemical hazards and strengthening the country's public health safety net.

The guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for detecting, reporting, responding to, and mitigating chemical incidents that pose risks to human health, animals, and the environment, in line with the One Health approach.

4. NATIONAL POLICY ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

The Federal Government has validated its first-ever National Policy on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management (MHHM), a crucial step toward improving menstrual health and hygiene for women and girls.

The policy aims to empower girls and women to manage menstruation with dignity, safety, and freedom from stigma by 2030, marking a significant shift towards prioritising menstrual health as a core aspect of public health, education, and gender equality.

5. FG INAUGURATES TASK FORCE TO COMBAT COUNTERFEIT DRUGS AND UNSAFE FOODS

In August 2025, the Federal Government inaugurated a Federal and Regional Task Force (FTF) under the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to address the production and distribution of counterfeit drugs and unsafe processed foods throughout Nigeria.

This initiative demonstrates the agency's commitment to strengthening enforcement, enhancing surveillance, and utilizing innovation to outpace those who compromise national health and safety standards.

The Task Force will coordinate a multi-sectoral approach to protect public health, uphold the integrity of the healthcare system, and restore trust in the products consumed by Nigerians.

6. NDPC'S COMPLIANCE NOTICE: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

Recently, the Nigerian Data Protection Commission issued a 21-day compliance notice to various sectors, including insurance firms. This notice has implications for healthcare providers involved in health insurance and patient data management, as it aims to promote data protection and accountability in the healthcare sector, ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of sensitive patient information, and thereby enhancing trust and confidence among patients, while improving overall healthcare delivery.

Organizations in the health sector must comply with the Nigeria Data Protection Act requirements to avoid enforcement actions and ensure robust data protection measures.

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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