



# REGULATORY PULSE

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTORS

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## 1. NAFDAC NEW COMPLIANCE STANDARDS FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

In November 2025, NAFDAC unveiled three key instruments: the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health + Nutrition (MNCH+N) Initiative, the Office of Women and Children's Health (NOWCH), and the National Action Plan on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products (2023–2027). These frameworks aim to reinforce regulatory oversight, enhancing controls on pediatric medicines, nutrition commodities, and menstrual hygiene products, while strengthening surveillance against unsafe medical products.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers, nutrition suppliers, hospitals, community health agencies, and supply-chain operators must align their systems with the new standards to ensure compliance with product registration, labelling, distribution, and reporting requirements.

## 2. NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH ADAPTATION PLAN

The National Council on Health (NCH) has approved the full implementation of the Climate Change and Health Adaptation Plan (HNAP) across all 36 States and the FCT, Abuja. The plan strengthens subnational health system resilience against climate-related risks, including heat waves, flooding, vector-borne diseases, and food insecurity.

States are required to integrate climate-health actions into health plans, enhance capacity, and improve surveillance, while institutions must update operational plans and staff training to ensure compliance and effective response.

### **3. NATIONAL POLICY ON COSMETICS SAFETY AND HEALTH**

The National Council on Health (NCH) has approved the National Policy on Cosmetics Safety and Health and its implementation plan to reduce consumer exposure to toxic substances such as lead in cosmetic products. The policy establishes a responsive regulatory system that protects public health, enhances industry competitiveness, and ensures cosmetic products for both domestic and export markets meet globally recognised safety and quality standards.

All cosmetics manufactured, imported, exported, advertised, sold, or distributed in Nigeria must comply with NAFDAC product labelling, safety, and quality standards. Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers are required to align their operations with the new compliance framework, update product documentation, and strengthen quality assurance systems to avoid regulatory sanctions.

### **4. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTH SECURITY (NAPHS) 2.0**

The Federal Government has launched the National Action Plan for Health Security 2.0 at the 2025 Health Sector Joint Annual Review. This strategic plan enhances national capacity to prepare for, detect, and respond to public health threats through a One Health approach that aligns the human, animal, agricultural, environmental, and security sectors. The plan calls for legislative review to address gaps in emergency preparedness and outbreak management, and mandates strengthened surveillance, timely reporting, and data sharing, with regulatory consequences for noncompliance.

Ministries, agencies, and partners are required to align operations with the plan's objectives, demonstrating measurable progress through a cost implementation menu and monitoring framework to ensure accountability and effective resource utilisation.

### **5. LAGOS ADOPTS PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO ENFORCE MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE**

To ensure compliance with mandatory health insurance for all residents, the Lagos State Government launched the Lagos Private Health Partnership (LPHP), a pioneering initiative aimed at strengthening health financing through collaboration with private insurers, financial institutions, and development partners. It aims to unify the State's health insurance ecosystem, expand private sector participation, and broaden access to quality healthcare for residents.

The LPHP has implications for healthcare providers and insurance operators in Lagos, who must align their operations with the new framework to ensure compliance, efficient service delivery, and effective participation in the state's evolving health financing architecture.

## **6. NIGERIA CHILD SURVIVAL AND BIRTH DEFECT GUIDELINE**

To accelerate the reduction of under-five mortality and enhance the early detection of congenital disorders, the Federal Government has introduced two key policy instruments: the Nigerian Child Survival Action Plan (NCSAP) and the National Birth Defect Surveillance Guideline. The framework seeks to enhance coordination across the health, education, nutrition, and child protection sectors, while promoting evidence-driven planning, surveillance, and targeted interventions.

This development affects federal and state health authorities, primary healthcare agencies, hospitals, and data-reporting institutions. These stakeholders are now required to update child health protocols, strengthen birth defect surveillance systems, integrate data into planning tools, and expand capacity for early intervention services.

## **7. NIGERIA APPROVES LOWER AGE FOR VOLUNTARY HIV TESTING**

The National Council on Health (NCH) has approved the reduction of the minimum age for voluntary HIV testing to 14, subject to strict safeguards to ensure legal compliance, confidentiality, and age-appropriate service delivery. The policy mandates pre- and post-test counselling by trained personnel capable of engaging adolescents sensitively, while protecting confidentiality for minors who are capable of providing informed consent.

Healthcare providers, laboratories, testing centres, and facilities must adhere to due process, ensuring adolescents understand the benefits, risks, and social implications before testing. Institutions are also required to guarantee appropriate documentation, consent procedures, and linkage to care in accordance with national laws and child protection standards.

## **8. UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) COMPACT ADDENDUM**

The Federal Government has expanded the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Compact through an addendum that formally includes Local Government Areas (LGAs), the private sector, and traditional and religious institutions. The expansion aims to strengthen collaboration and embed shared accountability in the delivery of essential health services.

LGAs and traditional/religious institutions are now formal signatories, required to align primary healthcare operations and budgets with national UHC standards and enhance accountability systems. Private sector providers and insurers must operate within a coordinated national framework, adhering to 'Ask-and-Offer' accountability mechanisms to support the achievement of UHC goals.

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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