MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

KENYA CHOSEN TO HOST REGIONAL CENTRE OF REGULATORY EXCELLENCE (RCOREs) IN AFRICA FOR PHARMACOVIGILANCE

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board has been chosen to host a Regional Centre of Regulatory Excellence (RCOREs) in Africa for Pharmacovigilance.

Kenya was selected by New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) effective on 2nd May 2014 after beating five African countries, National Regulatory Authorities and Universities including Ghana who had responded to NEPAD call for applications to be considered as Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence in Africa for Pharmacovigilance in October 2013. The application was open to all the National Drug Regulatory Authorities in Africa.

World Health Organization defines Pharmacovigilance (PV) as the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug-related problem.

This means Kenya is now a model where other African Countries are expected to come to learn Pharmacovigilance activities. The Pharmacy and Poisons Board was nominated by NEPAD, primarily for the regional centre's ideal location and the quality of services it provides.

The criterion for selection was based on training capacity; regulatory capability; Partnerships & collaborations; Training programmes certified by a national education accreditation body and/or other accreditation systems; Governance & Management systems and Infrastructure.

NEPAD, an African Union strategic framework for pan-African socio-economic development is a new intervention, spearheaded by African leaders, to address critical challenges facing the continent: poverty, development and Africa's marginalization internationally.

NEPAD provides unique opportunities for African countries to take full control of their development agenda, to work more closely together, and to cooperate more effectively with international partners.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) is the National Medicines Regulatory Authority of the republic of Kenya. It was established in 1957 under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Chapter 244 of the Laws of Kenya. PPB has the mandate to regulate pharmaceutical services, ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of human and veterinary medicines, and evaluate medical devices.

PPB was chosen for its proven track record in delivering innovative programmes. PPB launched the Pharmacovigilance in 2009 and established a National Pharmacovigilance Centre. The centre has eight members of staff who have undertaken both local and international trainings on issues of pharmacovigilance including training at the WHO Uppsala Drug Monitoring Centre.

A training curriculum for training of healthcare workers across the country has been developed. In collaboration with Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and tertiary training institutions such as the University of Nairobi (UON) and the Kenya Medical Training College, several pharmacovigilance training sessions for undergraduate pharmacy students have been conducted to sensitize health workers on pharmacovigilance before they graduate.

With support from partners PPB has prioritized training of health workers and other stakeholders such as representatives of the Pharma industry in Kenya on pharmacovigilance and medicine safety. By March 2014, over 10,000 individuals drawn from the public and private sectors in Kenya had undergone the training.

A Pharmacovigilance e-shot, an electronic mailing system used to communicate to subscribers issues of concern has been developed and an online reporting system that allows healthcare workers and consumers of medicines has been launched to submit

reports on poor quality medicine or suspected Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR). www.pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org

Kenya is the 98th member of the WHO international drug monitoring program contributing to the database on the Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs.) In Africa, Kenya is the fourth leading reporter and the leading in the East and Central African Region. It has reported more than 7,600 suspected Adverse Drug Reactions to the WHO database.

The Pharmacovigilance centre has a newsletter that it regularly shares with its clients to update them on the latest development on issues of pharmacovigilance. The centre has also successfully carried out an active surveillance study on monitoring the safety of artemether lumefantrine and is currently data cleaning and analyzing.

Through the centre, PPB has also carried out Post marketing studies of products like antimalarials, anti TBs, ARVs and most recently reproductive health products.

To carry out its mandate, the centre receives financial support from the PPB, development/implementing partners and pharmaceutical industry. PPB provides overall leadership for the implementation of the "one" national and integrated Kenya Pharmacovigilance System.

We are honoured to receive such recognition and look forward to working with our partners in contributing to Kenya's knowledge-generation capacity. This prestigious award now means we have the freedom to set our own research priorities and the opportunity to think strategically and focus on the long term.

DR. KIPKERICH KOSKEI, OGW
THE REGISTRAR