

Venue: LMHRA Conference Room

Date: Jan. 16, 2018

3# DSC Meeting Minutes

Introductory Matters

Overview of the Meeting: The third Diagnostic Steering Committee meeting was held at the LMHRA, which was chaired by Hon. Pharm. Joseph Somwarbi, the first Project Coordinator. He now serves as the chairperson on health matters at the National Legislature. Dr. Cristina Munoz has taken over from Dr. Guillermo Martinez-Perez as the Project Manager. The Project Coordinator, Mr. Alexander E. George welcomed everyone and extended his appreciation to them for accepting the invitation to work on the committee. Mr. George officially welcomed Dr. Cristina Munoz to the first DSC meeting since taking over from Dr. Martinez in August 2018. Mr. George informed DSC members present that Dr. Munoz resides at the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital which is one of the project partners. Pharm. David Sumo expressed his gratitude to his colleagues for honoring the LMHRA invitation. Dr. Munoz's major concern was how importers in the rural part of Liberia will do online registration of their diagnostics when the need arises, considering the fact that internet access in rural Liberia is a problem. Therefore, it was generally agreed that the Guideline on Registration of IVD needs to be revised to consider means of IVD registration other than online.

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Introduction
3. Welcome remarks
4. Activities up-dates
5. AOB

In attendance were:

- 1) Pharm. David Sumo – Managing Director of LMHRA
- 2) Mr. Alexander E. George - Project Coordinator
- 3) Pharm. Ezekiel Fayiah Hallie – School of Pharmacy
- 4) Mrs. Christine K. Tarr-Attia – St. Joseph Catholic Hospital
- 5) Hon. Joseph Somwarbi – DSC Chairman
- 6) Dr. Cristina Munoz – Project Manager
- 7) Mr. Victor Koko – National Malaria Control Program
- 8) Pharm. Jefferson Piah Harris – Pharmacy Board of Liberia
- 9) Ms. Oretha B. Rochez -----Minutes taker
- 10) Pharm David Sakui – Pharmacy Division of MOH
- 11) Pharm. Henry K. Gbormoi, Sr. – Member of TWG/IGORCADIA

The absentees were:

- 1) Mr. T. Henry Kohar - National Diagnostics Unit of MOH
- 2) Pharm. Augustine Passewe – National AIDS Control Program
- 3) Pharm. Moses Toby – National Tuberculosis & Leprosy Control Program of Liberia
- 4) Pharm. Kpakama Kromah – Supply Chain Unit of MOH
- 5) Pharm. Diana Jeator – Member of TWG/IGORCADIA
- 6) BKAY Pharmacy
- 7) Lucky Pharmacy
- 8) Nathaniel B. Comehn – Legal Counsel of LMHRA
- 9) Pharm. P. Memoh Dunah – Pharmacy Board of Liberia

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No	Discussion Point	Discussion	Action Points
1.	Updates from Project Coordinator & Project Manager	<p>The status of the four (4) guidelines being developed was the major focus from the updates. The DSC sub-committee designated during the last DSC meeting in August 2018 should have formally presented their work for discussion, but the chair of that committee, Mr. T. Henry Kohar was absent.</p> <p>One of the committee members, Mr. Victor Koko of Malaria Control said, during their review of the document, they were concerned about the relative roles of LMHRA and the National Diagnostic Unit of MOH. In response to this inquiry, Pharm. David Sumo, the Managing Director of LMHRA clarified that LMHRA's role is to look at the quality of medicines and other health products coming into the country, while NDU's role is to draft policies.</p> <p>Mr. Sumo said further that what needs to happen now is for the guidelines being to meet the requirements by best practices, internationally.</p> <p>Mr. Sumo's clarity was buttressed by other members of the DSC present, including Hon. Pharm. Joseph Somwarbi.</p>	<p>NDU and LMHRA must collaborate in line with their respective roles.</p> <p>Policies must be reviewed and implemented.</p>
2.	Discussions and Adoption of Changes to the guidelines made by the DSC Sub-committee	<p>1) All proposed amendments made to the documents which seek to allow both LMHRA and the National Diagnostic Unit (NDU) to exercise those functions exclusively given to LMHRA were rejected by the</p>	<p>Mr. George and members of the TWG will effect the necessary changes and share the new draft the end of January 2019.</p>

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		<p>DSC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2) The proposed amendment which seeks to omit the clause in the Registration Guideline (Section 1.3) which states that the local representatives of IVD manufacturers should provide technical services through their superintendent pharmacists was accepted by members of the DSC present, but with a slight modification.3) All other changes proposed were accepted.	
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AOB and Closing:

There was no AOB discussion. The meeting was adjourned at about 4:30 p.m.