



MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Chairman, Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG)

To: Honourable Minister of Health

Subject: Submission of report of the Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG)

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018

Preamble

Controlled substances such as narcotic drugs have two (2) different potentials: the potential to be used for medical and scientific purposes and also to be diverted to illicit channels for trafficking and abuse which jeopardized the well-being of the populations.

Drugs of abuse are usually psychoactive drugs that are used by people for various different reasons which may include: curiosity and peer pressure especially among school children and young adults. These drugs which are intended to be used for medical purposes through legitimate prescriptions are turned into recreational use and become addictive, as a means of obtaining creative inspiration, recreational purposes, among others.

Codeine, an opioid drug similar to morphine, hitherto formulated as tablets and syrups, available as over the counter medicine has been reclassified in 2013 as a prescription only medicine. The safety concerns around the use, misuse and abuse of codeine containing preparations, tramadol and other related substances are well documented and are assuming a frightening dimension in Nigeria.

2.0 Background

The Honourable Minister of Health, Prof. Folorunsho Isaac Adewole, FAS, DSc have the sole mandate to ensure provision of quality stewardship and service for the health of all Nigerians. Consequently, the Honourable Minister of Health constituted the Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG) and inaugurated same on January 23, 2018 to develop strategies on combating the menace of codeine, tramadol and other controlled substances.

The Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG) is chaired by Prof. (Mrs.) Oluwatoyin Odeku, the Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State with the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria as the Secretariat.

Membership of CCRWG comprises representatives from Federal Ministry of Health, Regulatory Agencies (Pharmacists Council of Nigeria, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency), Development Partners (World Health Organisation and United Nations Office on Drug and Crime), other relevant Government Agency (National Orientation Agency) and Associations (PSN, ACPN, PMG-MAN, ALPS, YPG, Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria and NAPPMED) and Civil Society Organisations.

Note

The Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG) had its inaugural meeting immediately after inauguration and the second meeting on April 11th, 2018.

CCRWG worked through four (4) Committees in line with the terms of reference given to it by the Honourable Minister of Health. The committees are:

- (i) Policy and Supply Chain Management Committee
- (ii) Public Enlightenment and Advocacy Committee
- (iii) Engagement and Monitoring of Dispensing Outlet Committee, and
- (iv) Withdrawal Management and Rehabilitation Committee

The Committees developed key recommendations for addressing the challenges associated with codeine, tramadol and other related substances abuse in Nigeria which the group believes if well implemented would halt and further prevent future incidences of drug abuse and misuse in Nigeria.

Conclusion

- (i) *The Chairman, on behalf of the Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG) which is a multiministerial, multiagency and multisectoral platform wishes to commend and appreciate the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof. Folorunsho Isaac Adewole, FAS, DSc for the prompt response to address the contemporary issues on drug abuse and misuse in Nigeria which is a serious challenge especially to the national security*
- (ii) *The Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG) also use this medium to thank the Honourable Minister of Health for the opportunity given them to serve in the group.*

Thank you.



Professor (Mrs.) Oluwatoyin Odeku

Chairman, Codeine Control and other Related Matters Working Group (CCRWG)