

The Honorable Minister of Health has the power to direct that:

1. NAFDAC should stop the issuance of import permit for codeine for now.
2. Manufacturers should give an account of the disposal of codeine containing preparations and track its movement in the market.
3. Deadline should be given to all manufacturers of codeine containing cough syrups to substitute codeine with dextromethorphan
4. PCN and NAFDAC should be directed to do an audit of all codeine containing cough syrups in the country
5. Recall of all codeine containing preparations should be done immediately by all the regulatory agencies
6. Actions should be expedited to empower the PCN to prosecute those involved in illegal trade in codeine containing preparations. Currently, there are no laws in place. The law is presently with the National assembly waiting for the assent by the Senate President. There should be strict penalties for those involved in illegal trade and distribution of codeine

Note:

1. There is presently no indigenous company involved in the manufacturer of codeine containing preparation as pain killer
2. Codeine containing cough syrup has been found in Beer parlours in Nasarawa state and some buried in a store have been recovered by PCN but because the PCN does not have the power to prosecute those found in possession