

**SECRET**

JUNE, 2018

NCH/61/003D

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT, EMS POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICES**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek Council's approval of the recommended list of Committee members in line with NAct 2014, Section 11, Sub-Section 3 (e) which states that "5 percent of the Fund shall be used for emergency Medical Treatment to be administered by a Committee appointed by the National Council on Health"

**2. BACKGROUND**

The National Policy on Emergency Medical Services and Operational Guidelines for National Ambulance Services were successfully launched on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 at the NAF Conference Centre, Kado, Abuja, followed by a 2-days stakeholders.

The aim of the stakeholders meeting, which followed suit, was to bring together actors in emergency responses in Nigeria, and to deliberate on the implementation strategies of the policy documents and fashion a way forward for a coordinated, seamless, effective and efficient emergency services for the Nigerian health system.

The implementation of the National Policy on Emergency Medical Service and of the Ambulance Service in Nigeria is expected to drive the creation of a regulated and coordinated Emergency care from pre-hospital to the hospital and then the post-hospital rehabilitative care. The components of the care system include, but not limited to trained emergency personnel, emergency communication systems, emergency ambulance system, minimum required infrastructure and equipment at receiving facilities and an efficient financing framework (funding mechanism).

The Federal Ministry of Health has started implementation of EMS system by mapping emergency medical facilities and resources along the main highway corridors in the country. This began with the Abuja/Kaduna highway and, Abuja/Lokoja/Benin highway corridors. Gaps were noted and would be closed for the purpose of providing seamless coverage for emergency service at full implementation.

**3. CONTENT**

- i. Implementation of EMS and Ambulance Service Program entails database development, Information on capacity and capabilities of stakeholders, including assets of all registered health facilities and agencies providing emergency services in States and FCT. Other parameters to be gathered, includes address of facilities, location, phone numbers , human and material resources and number of serviceable ambulances, and type of Ambulance services in operation. The cooperation of States, FCT and Agencies involved is vital to achieving the set objectives.
- ii. The Committee members, if appointed, are expected to see to the coordination and regulation of EMS activities in Nigeria, ensuring prompt payment of medical emergencies treatment across the Country. Some of the other tasks of the Committee shall include:

- a) Production of a comprehensive records of Facility Inventory: Highway EMS Corridor map of Nigeria, Inventory of ambulances, Ambulance Service operators (both Government and privately owned) all over the nation, identification of coverages (whether National, Regional, States or LGA), manpower capacity, equipment capability and service types. All registered ambulances are to operate within the guidelines as approved.
- b) Personnel Resource and Development: To identify training needs and standard training programme, including creating a standard operating protocols (SOP), supervision template, evaluation and monitoring of training schools, Sanctions and Reward systems.
- c) Registration of service providers such as health facilities, Ambulance services, Partner Service Providers, and to identify and also designate hospitals and health facilities for patient referrals.
- d) Funding and Payment mechanism: The committee is to manage the EMS Fund, and also work out the sources of funding as well as management of the funds for efficient service delivery. It will also propose for Minister's
- e) approval a payment modality for services provided within the EMS system.
- f) The Committee to function as a board to be chaired by an experienced Medical Practitioner, having not less than 10-years experiences as practitioner of Emergency medical services. The Board is to ensure full compliance with all the provisions of the National Health Act 2014, especially, Section 20 dealing with the provision of Emergency Medical Services.
- g) The committee will ensure the full implementation of the National Policy on Emergency Medical Services and Guidelines for Ambulance Services under the directives of the Honourable Minister of Health.
- h) An EMS Fund Account to be opened for the purpose of Managing the 5% of the 1% BHCF, and all other funds of EMS in Nigeria domiciled in FMOH.

8. The proposed composition of the Committee for the Council's Appointment are:-

- A Chairman, Nominated by the Honourable Minister of Health
- The State Commissioners of Health: one from each Geopolitical Zones.
- The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, represented.
- The Federal Ministry of Finance, represented.
- National Emergency Management Agency
- Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
- Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), represented.
- The Nigerian Police Force, represented.
- Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), represented.
- Federal Fire Service (FFS), represented.
- The Chairman, Committee of Chief Medical Directors of Federal Tertiary Hospital
- The President, Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria
- The President, Guild of Medical Directors
- Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC), represented.
- The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW)
- The Country Director, UNRARSTIP
- A Diaspora Emergency physician
- Association of Medical Social Workers of Nigeria (AMSWON)
- Director of Hospital Services -Member/Secretary

## **PRAYERS**

a). The Council is invited to Note as follows:

- i. The National Policy on Emergency Medical Services and Operational Guidelines for National Ambulance Services have been successfully launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2018 at the NAF Conference Centre, Kado, Abuja, in the presence of all stakeholders on EMS in Nigeria.
- ii. There was a follow-up stakeholders meeting to tease out implementation strategies of the national policy on EMS and Guidelines for Ambulance Services.
- iii. All the Commissioners of Health, and the Secretary of HHS were part of the stakeholders meeting
- iv. A Communique was issued after the Stakeholders meeting- the Abuja Declaration on EMS.

- v. The NHAAct 2014, Section 11, Sub-Section 3 (e) states that “5 percent of the Fund shall be used for emergency Medical Treatment to be administered by a Committee appointed by the National Council on Health”
- vi. The proposed composition of the Committee for the Council’s Adoption is as in para 8 of this memo.
- vii. An EMS Fund Account to be opened for the purpose of Managing the 5% of the 1% BHCF, and all other funds of EMS in Nigeria domiciled in FMOH.
- viii. Dr Nnamdi E. Nwauwa is recommended to chair the Committee

and

b). The Council is further invited to Approve:

- i. The Emergency Medical Services Implementation Plan as in para 3 above.
- ii. Creation of an EMS Fund Account to be opened for the purpose of Managing the 5% of the 1% BHCF, and all other funds of EMS in Nigeria domiciled in FMOH.
  - iii. The Appointment of Dr Nnamdi E. Nwauwa as the chairman of the Emergency Medical Treatment Committee.
  - iv. The appointment of the Emergency Medical Treatment Committee (EMTC) list as submitted

**Honourable Minister of Health**

**June, 2018.**