

**SECRET**

**JUNE 2018**

**NCH/61/003P**

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT/ STRENGTHENING OF  
DRUG TREATMENT / REHABILITATION CENTRES BY EACH STATE OF THE FEDERATION AND THE FCT**

**1. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memo is to seek approval of Council for the establishment/strengthening of Drug dependency Treatment/Rehabilitation Centres by each State of the Federation and the FCT.

**2. INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND**

Drug use and drug use disorders are associated with significant level of disease (morbidity) and disability, along with immeasurable social and economic consequences on the lean resources and security of nation. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the global burden of disease attributable to alcohol and illicit drug use amounts to 5.4% of the total burden of disease.

The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and other stakeholders in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) Modality conducted the first National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health between 2016 and 2017. This population-based survey will reveal the extent, pattern, social and health consequences of drug use in Nigeria when the report is finalized and released in September this year for informed and targeted interventions aimed at addressing and reversing the rising menace of drug abuse in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

**3. CONTENT**

The widespread reported non-medical use of codeine containing cough syrup and other substances by school children, youths and women across the country informed the recent ban of importation, manufacture, distribution and use of the medicine in the country. The abuse of the medicines and other substances has exposed the users to numerous health challenges including drug addiction. Consequently, there is need for the treatment of these persons in an appropriate healthcare setting and by a team of healthcare providers with knowledge and skills in the management of drug dependence in order to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegrated into the society.

The Federal Ministry of Health through the Response to Drugs and Related Organized Crime being implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) Modality has:

i. upgraded 11 hospitals as Model Drug Dependence Treatment Centers across the 6 geo-political zones of the country, namely:

- Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano State.
- Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital (FNPH) Aro, Abeokuta
- National Hospital, Abuja
- Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital (FNPH) Kaduna, Kaduna State
- Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital (FNPH) Maiduguri, Borno State
- Jos University Teaching Hospital, Plateau State.

- Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital (FNPH) Enugu, Enugu State
  - Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital (FNPH) Benin, Edo state
  - University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers state
  - Quintessential Hospital, Jos, Plateau State
  - Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital (FNPH) Yaba, Lagos
- ii. Trained 25 healthcare providers as Master Trainers and over 1200 healthcare practitioners on provision of evidence base drug treatment services between 2015 and 2017 with the support of European Union and UNODC;
- iii. Developed Minimum Standards for Drug Dependence Treatment in Nigeria.
- iv. Initiating development of drug treatment guidelines including community based approaches and opioid substitution therapy.
- v. Supported Nigeria's first national drug use survey across every state of Nigeria, the results of which will be ready for release in September 2018.

#### **4. PRAYERS:**

***The Council is invited to note that:***

- i. Drug use and drug use disorder is a public health problem;
  - ii. There is rising menace of drug abuse across the states of the Federation;
  - iii. There is urgent need for all the States of the federation to establish or strengthen at least one drug dependence treatment centre; or dedicate a ward within any of the existing hospital in the State to drug treatment services in support of national effort of the Federal Government to ensure all persons with drug problem are treated in line with the international best practices;
  - iv. The Minimum Standard for Drug Dependence Treatment developed by the Ministry will provide informed guidance to policy makers and hospitals desirous of establishing drug dependence treatment centre on assessment of compliance with standards by the health facilities.
- The 25 healthcare providers trained as National Master Trainers by the Ministry will support States in building the capacities of their healthcare providers in the provision of evidence based drug dependence treatment.
  - Adoption of out-patient drop-in-centre in a community setting for provision of basic drug counselling services and medical care, with severe cases of drug use disorder being referred to higher level of care with in-patient facilities is also another cost-effective approach to increasing access to drug treatment services for indigent community members.
  - The drop-in-centre will have some full-time staff (psychologist/social worker, nurse, outreach workers, pharmacists etc.) while the doctor/psychiatrist will visit 3 times a week.

#### **5. PRAYERS**

***Council is further invited to approve:***

- The establishment/strengthen of at least one drug dependence treatment centre, with community drop-in-centres attached to it, by each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

**Honourable Minister of Health**

**June, 2018.**