

SECRET

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NCH/61/007B

MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE INITIATIVE

1.0 PURPOSE

This memorandum seeks to formally update Council on the status of implementation of the State Social Health Insurance Initiative by the NHIS in Nigeria. The Guidelines was presented at the special NHC in March 2015 as part of efforts by the NHIS to consolidate work towards coverage expansion and attainment of Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Universal health coverage represents a sustainable development goal for health. Empirical evidence abounds of the correlation of health population health with development. A healthy population implies higher labour productivity and higher returns to households from labour participation. According to the World Health Organization, universal health coverage (UHC) not only guarantees every citizen access to acceptable and quality healthcare, it also provides financial protection to them, thus cushioning them from the impoverishing effects of ill health and the costs thereof. Universal access to healthcare improves health system's outcomes, improves productivity and positively correlates with economic development.

2.2 Nigeria's efforts towards UHC have been tremendous and clearly visible. The establishment of the National Health Insurance Scheme as the institutional framework with the mandate for UHC goal attainment; the hosting of the Presidential Summit on UHC in 2014; the signing into law of the National Health Act (2014) and current efforts at operationalization of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF), all highlight a choice and seriousness of the government of Nigeria in pursuit of this lofty goal.

2.3 The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), having identified several constraints militating against a scale up of coverage in Nigeria commenced the decentralization of NHIS implementation to the States through the State Social Health Insurance (SSHI) Initiative. This takes cognizance of the important roles that states could play in the achievement of UHC, given their importance in issues relating to health as enshrined in the 1999 constitutional.

2.4 In recognition of the important role of states, the NHIS has adopted the SSHI structure as the framework for the implementation of its 50% share of the BHCPF as enshrined in section 11 of the National Health Act, 2014. All states are therefore encouraged to work towards establishing their respective SSHIS structures.

3.0 STATUS REPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SSHIP IN NIGERIA.

3.1 Following the presentation and adoption of the Council memo in March, 2015, many states commenced activities aimed at implementing mandatory health insurance schemes in their domains. The summary of the implementation status is as summarized below:

- Thirty-Five (35) states have developed their legal frameworks.
- Seventeen (17) states have passed their bills.

- Twelve (12) States have their laws signed.
- Thirteen (13) states have their Agencies in place.
- Seven (7) states have started enrolling their populations.

The NHIS and Partners have provided support to the states in various areas.

3.2 Since NHIS plans to use the SSHIS structure to implement the NHIS Gateway of the BHCPF, it is imperative that a seamless exchange of data between NHIS and the SSHIAs exist. Therefore, SSHIAs are urged to ensure that their ICT system demonstrate interconnectivity with the NHIS system for operational ease.

3.3 The overall objective of the policy is to ensure:

- Transparency
- Equity
- Accountability
- Accessibility
- Aggregation of pools to deal with the dangers of fragmentation as currently evident in the system

4.0 INVITATION TO NOTE

Council is hereby invited to note the following:

- That NHIS decentralization policy is on course and has been adopted by many states towards the attainment of UHC in Nigeria.
- The SSHIS will be the platforms for implementing the NHIS Gateway of the BHCPF
- Thirty- Five states have legal frameworks in place; Seventeen states have laws passed and Twelve states have their bills signed into law. Thirteen States have their Agencies in place and Seven states have commenced population coverage. See annexure for details.
- The State health insurance Schemes are urged to create ICT systems that can interconnect with the NHIS system.

5.0 PRAYER

Council is hereby invited to encourage all states to adopt and expedite efforts to establish SSHIS as a cost effective, transparent and sustainable platform for achieving their health systems' goals and for implementing the NHIS Gateway of the BHCPF.

Honorable Minister of Health

June, 2018