

SECRET

JUNE, 2018.

NCH/61/00

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, ENUGU STATE ON ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR STRENGTHENED HEALTH SYSTEM FOR DELIVERY OF PACKAGES OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES: THE NEED FOR IMPROVED HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND INCREASED UTILIZATION OF QUALITY SKILLED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to inform Council on Health Care Services financing and how utilization is becoming increasingly difficult for individual citizens of the country because of high cost of drugs and consumables as well as the cost of engaging skilled health professionals such as doctors and nurses; and to seek Council's approval for States and the FCT to establish mandatory Health Insurance Scheme for her citizens and reintroduction of Midwives' Service Scheme to involve nurses and doctors for rural posting.

**BACKGROUND**

Health care financing through health insurance scheme appears to be a very viable option in Nigeria. The experience in all states particularly during recession and high inflationary trends suggests that the cost of health care services burden on individuals in the face of high cost of drugs and consumables is catastrophic and pervasive.

Moreover, there is high cost of living and maintaining health professionals highly needed to provide essential packages of health care services. Many health care facilities are dysfunctional because of acute shortage of these health professionals' especially doctors, nurses and midwives, pharmacists, etc. However, many are unemployed; searching for jobs obviously available but cannot be engaged principally because of funding constraints.

**JUSTIFICATION**

Poor health indices such as high maternal mortality rate in Nigeria currently noted by Hon. Minister of Health to be 576 per 1000 live births in Nigeria clearly demand for strengthening Health Care delivery system. Apart from facility upgrading, the case challenges focus on bringing down the cost of health care service to individuals and family through adoption of Health Insurance Schemes at States and Local Government levels to enhance access to health care service to majority of Nigerians. The challenges of providing essential packages of health care services in the face of growing demands necessitates the imperative of engaging unemployed qualified skilled health professionals in the existing facilities especially in rural settings . The focus of using semi-skilled and less competent health care service practitioners like CHEWS is not an alternative. To strengthen Health Care Service System, the right personnel must be engaged.

**PRAYER:**

**Council is invited to note and approve that:**

- 1) The States should establish mandatory Health Insurance Scheme for her citizens. National Health Insurance Scheme should be strengthened and more citizen uptake of scheme advocated;
- 2) Reintroduction of midwives' service scheme to involve nurses and doctors for rural posting especially in Primary Health Care Centers to curtail avoidable deaths from obstetric emergencies and other childhood illness;

- 3) Increased manpower development by opening up more schools of midwifery, Nursing and departments of nursing in Nigeria universities.

**Hon. Commissioner for Health, Enugu state**

**JUNE, 2018**