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**SECRET**

**JUNE, 2019**

**NCH/62/**

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE ADOPTION  
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATMENT GUIDELINE FOR DELIVERY OF CHILD  
EYE HEALTH**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to seek the Council's approval for adoption of the Treatment Guideline for Delivery of Child Eye Health services across all levels of government by all stakeholders in the Nigerian Health Sector.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1. Good vision plays an important role in the physical, mental and social development of children. Poor vision in children is associated with increased childhood mortality and can interfere with learning and social adaptation if not detected early and treated.

2.2. Reducing and eliminating unsafe practices, setting standards of care and enabling the effective use of eye care resources for the best possible outcomes for all children of Nigeria is a priority for the Federal Ministry of Health, however there is no treatment guideline for delivery of child eye health services.

**3. JUSTIFICATION**

3.1 Globally, 1.6M children are blind and approximately twice that number have low vision. Over 45% of these children suffer permanent visual impairment or blindness as a result of untreated cases of strabismus, refractive errors, cataract and measles with varying patterns between countries.

3.2 The Nigeria National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey carried out in 2005-2007 examined over 5,000 children, 0.6% of which were blind with a higher prevalence seen in females (0.89%) compared to the males (0.33%).

3.3 Following this, the Federal Ministry of Health through its National Eye Health Programme (NEHP), a unit of the Department of Public Health worked with relevant stakeholders from different MDAs to develop the Treatment Guideline for Child Eye Health.

The council is invited to note as follows:

1. The Treatment Guideline will provide guidance for the delivery of quality child eye health services in Nigeria.
2. The maiden edition of the treatment guideline for child eye health in Nigeria was developed by the National Eye Health Programme, Federal Ministry of Health with input from key stakeholders and Christoffel-Blinden mission-Seeing is Believing (CBM-SiB) project.
3. The implementation of the treatment guideline will standardize eye care for children in Nigeria.

**Prayer**

Council is further invited to approve the adoption of The Treatment Guideline for Child Eye Health at all levels of government by all stakeholders in the Nigerian Health Sector.

S/N	Topics/Originators	Issues Raised	Notes/Prayers		
1.	<p>The approval of the adoption of the treatment guideline for delivery of child eye health</p> <p>Honourable Minister of Health</p> <p>NCH/62/</p>	<p>1. PURPOSE The purpose of this memo is to seek the Council's approval for adoption of the Treatment Guideline for Delivery of Child Eye Health services across all levels of government by all stakeholders in the Nigerian Health Sector.</p> <p>2. BACKGROUND 2.1. Good vision plays an important role in the physical, mental and social development of children. Poor vision in children is associated with increased childhood mortality and can interfere with learning and social adaptation if not detected early and treated. 2.2. Reducing and eliminating unsafe practices, setting standards of care and enabling the effective use of eye care resources for the best possible outcomes for all children of Nigeria is a priority for the Federal Ministry of Health, however there is no treatment guideline for delivery of child eye health services.</p> <p>3. JUSTIFICATION 3.1 Globally, 1.6M children are blind and approximately twice that number have low vision. Over 45% of these children suffer permanent visual impairment or blindness as a result of untreated cases of strabismus, refractive errors, cataract and measles with varying patterns between countries.</p>	<p>The council is invited to note as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Treatment Guideline will provide guidance for the delivery of quality child eye health services in Nigeria.</li> <li>2. The maiden edition of the treatment guideline for child eye health in Nigeria was developed by the National Eye Health Programme, Federal Ministry of Health with input from key stakeholders and Christoffel-Blinden mission-</li> </ol>		

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