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02 OCT 2019

*On the duties of the pharmacist in public and private health facilities in Cameroon*

**THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

To

- The General Managers of Regional Hospitals;
- The General Managers of Technical Specialized bodies;
- The General Managers of Central Hospitals;
- The Regional Delegates of Public Health;
- The General Managers of the Regional Hospitals and others ranking as such;
- The District Management Officers;
- The Managers of District Hospitals;
- The District Medical Officers;
- The Managers of Private Hospitals.

The growth of hospital pharmacy in Cameroon is one of the main concerns of the Ministry of Public Health. The main purpose of the National Drug Policy is to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality healthcare products in all public and private hospitals within a framework of proper use and control of health expenditures. The hospital pharmacist is a health personnel having the professional, regulatory and administrative responsibility to organize and ensure the proper functioning of the pharmacy activities in the health facility.

Therefore, I wish to inform you of the duties of a hospital pharmacist which are laid down as follows;

**1. Supply and management of stocks**

- Identify, select and quantify the needs in drugs, vaccines, anaesthetics, medical gases, medical devices, reagents, blood derivatives;
- Verify suppliers authorizations;
- Manage the process of ordering and purchasing drugs, vaccines; anaesthetics, medical gases, medical devices and reagents;
- Receive and verify the quality of delivered products;
- Identify all supply sources and stocks movements to fight against counterfeiting, falsification and over-the-counter sales of medical products in hospitals;
- Ensure good storage conditions as well as secure storage areas;
- Select, verify the quality, receive and store products from donations or health programs;
- Ensure the security of all products including those unfit for human consumption;
- Ensure the effective destruction of products unfit for human consumption.



## **2. Repackaging and preparation of health products**

- Purchase and control raw materials in compliance with the pharmacopeia;
- Prepare products in accordance with good practices and standards;
- Sterilize devices based on good practices;
- Secure the sterilization process ;
- Prepare and ensure the control of hemodialysis waters ;
- Ensure the qualification and validation of hemodialysis equipment ;
- Ensure the preparation of cytotoxic drugs and other health products

## **3. Dispensation of medical products**

- Analyse medical prescriptions;
- Deliver drugs, vaccines, reagents, medical devices and blood derivatives to patients;
- Secure the drugs distribution process in health units
- Organize the calendar for pharmaceutical watch in the hospital;

## **4. Vigilance**

- Draft and distribute therapeutic information forms;
- Participate in drafting and disseminating treatment algorithms;
- Organize in-house training on the proper use of health products;
- Collect and refer cases of side effects;
- Train and inform the staff on the follow-up and management of side effects;
- Establish an internal system of pharmacovigilance, materiovigilance and reactovigilance
- Share alerts and information relating to the security of products
- Design and/or implement risk reduction actions including recalling products, withdrawal from the market and changes in usage conditions;
- Follow-up the use and identify the misuse of products including painkillers, antimicrobials, drugs, psychotropic drugs, dermocorticoids, antidotes;
- Make drug leaflets available.

## **5. Securing drug treatments**

- Participate in the fight against nosocomial infections and antimicrobials resistance;
- Facilitate therapeutic committees;
- Collaborate with the doctor on therapeutic choices
- Contribute to improved dosage, observance and follow-up of treatment efficacy;
- Manage side effects, drug interactions and drug mix-ups;
- Perform patient therapeutic education sessions.

I attach great importance to the strict respect of the provisions hereof.

Yaounde, 02 OCT 2019

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*Dr. Manaouda Malachie*