PRESS RELEASE

GS1 and NAFDAC welcome more than 300 participants from 44 countries, including over 100 representatives from healthcare regulators, to the second African GS1 Healthcare conference in Lagos, Nigeria

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 10, 2019. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control in Nigeria (NAFDAC) is co-hosting the second African Healthcare conference in Lagos, Nigeria, from 17 to 19 September 2019 with GS1, a neutral, not-for-profit organisation that develops and maintains global standards used to improve the efficiency, safety and visibility of supply chains. NAFDAC is co-hosting the conference as a continuum in fulfilling the Agency's mandate that includes the control of distribution, sale and use (or supply chain) of medicines and medical products. This is to ensure that these regulated products are traceable with the aim of eliminating substandard and falsified medicines (SFs) in the supply chain, thus safeguarding the health of the population. The conference is supported by the World Bank, Global Fund, USAID and International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (IFPMA).

For this conference, healthcare regulators from across Africa will join international organisations, regional and global healthcare stakeholders and prominent experts to address global health policy aspects to prevent falsified medicines entering the supply chain through implementing traceability.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently estimated 1 in 10 medical products circulating in low and middle-income countries to be either substandard or falsified, especially in Africa, that accounts for 42% of the detected cases worldwide. Addressing this situation may help prevent widespread loss of life in this continent, including an estimated 64 000–158 000 avoidable deaths from malaria alone. Furthermore, falsified medication has an economic impact and results in less trust in the healthcare system.

The GS1 Healthcare conference in Lagos will provide a unique opportunity for healthcare stakeholders to discuss how to work together across Africa to achieve better traceability of pharmaceuticals and to improve patient safety. Delegates will also hear about WHO efforts to prevent substandard and falsified medical products entering the global market. Leading experts will showcase how GS1 standards help supply chain partners, including healthcare professionals, implementing traceability, making sure that the patient receives the right medication.

The conference program includes presentations from senior representatives of the World Bank, USAID, the Global Fund, NAFDAC, WHO, J&J, Roche, Pfizer, AbbVie and UK Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, among others.

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About NAFDAC - The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) was established by Decree No. 15 of 1993 as amended by Decree No. 19 of 1999 and now the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act Cap N1 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004 to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale and use of Food, Drugs, Cosmetics, Medical Devices, Packaged Water, Chemicals and Detergents (collectively known as regulated products). The agency was officially established in October 1992.

View the NFDAC Website

About GS1 - GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation that develops and maintains the most widely used global standards for efficient business communication. We are best known for the barcode, named by the BBC as one of "the 50 things that made the world economy". GS1 standards improve the efficiency, safety and visibility of supply chains across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors. Our scale and reach – local Member Organisations in 114 countries, 1.5 million user companies and 6 billion transactions every day – help ensure that GS1 standards create a common language that supports systems and processes across the globe. Find out more at www.gs1.org

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