



The Pharmaceutical Society Of Uganda

Our Ref: 239/PSU/2026

Your Ref:

Date: 14th August 2026

TO: ALL INTERN PHARMACISTS – 2026/2027 COHORT

RE: PSU GUIDANCE ON REPORTING TO INTERNSHIP CENTRES PENDING GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT ON FACILITATION

The Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda (PSU), the national professional body for Pharmacists in Uganda established under the Pharmacy and Drugs Act, Cap. 309, has the mandate to secure the highest practicable standards of pharmacy practice in Uganda.

PSU is aware of the Ministry of Health (MOH) directive requiring all medical interns to report to their internship centres by 14th August 2026, failure of which they risk forfeiting their placement as per the deployment list issued.

We are equally cognizant that to date, there is no written commitment from the said MOH regarding facilitation for medical interns during internship. This includes facilitation to report, accommodation, and upkeep while at the centres. This lack of clarity has rendered many intern pharmacists and other medical interns, particularly those who were privately sponsored, unable to report to their assigned stations.

For clarity, the 344 intern pharmacists currently deployed were forwarded by PSU to MoH for posting. These are graduates of Pharmacy who sat and passed the PSU Pre-Internship Examinations. Not every person who completed university was forwarded for deployment. PSU maintains the national pharmacy students' registration database and our numbers are manageable and verifiable.

The welfare of health workers in training is provided for under Policy Objective 5 and Implementation Standards 7.2 and 12 of the National Education and Training for Health Policy 2025. The standard is that adequate and reasonable facilitation should be provided to interns. Failure to provide facilitation to medical interns offends this standard. We further emphasize that medical interns are health service providers in training and not "students" as defined in the interpretation section of the Policy. Medical internship is post-qualification mandatory training before one is registered to practice independently.

Additionally, we are concerned that our Intern Pharmacists are being asked to report to facilities with a critical shortage of pharmacists. Despite having an approved public health structure, the current staffing levels show General Hospitals at only 34.5% (38/110), Health Centre IVs at 2.3% (5/222), Regional Referral Hospitals at 24.6% (31/126), while National Referral Hospitals are still operating on an old structure with between 1 to 7 pharmacists. Reporting under such circumstances, without facilitation and without adequate supervision, means you will be expected to work under extreme pressure akin to "working like donkeys", and this will have a serious toll on your health and training. We also note with concern that you were not given a choice as to which hospital you were posted to by the Ministry of Health, which has imposed additional financial and logistical burdens on you.

Equally important, after internship you are required to sit and pass the PSU Post-Internship / Pre-Registration Examinations before you can be registered to practice. You need to be in a sound state of mind, health, and with adequate mentorship to succeed in these exams. Deploying you under stress, without facilitation, and in facilities with no pharmacists to supervise you compromises both your training and your ability to pass these qualifying examinations. No intern pharmacist should be expected to supervise themselves at internship centres. You are required to report all constraints to PSU without delay.

CONTINUATION SHEET

In view of the foregoing, PSU advises all intern pharmacists to withhold reporting to their assigned internship centres until the Ministry of Health issues a written commitment on facilitation for all medical interns posted by the said ministry. PSU has formally engaged the Ministry of Health to rescind the reporting deadline directive, to provide adequate and reasonable facilitation in line with the NET4H Policy, and to urgently recruit and deploy qualified pharmacists in public health facilities to ensure proper mentorship and supervision. No intern pharmacist shall be victimized or penalized for complying with this guidance.

Furthermore, PSU is working jointly with the Uganda Medical Association, the Uganda Dental Association, and other professional bodies to secure an urgent and lasting solution for all medical interns. We note that yesterday there was an online engagement with the Hon. Minister of Health and we appreciate his commitment to follow up the matter in Cabinet. This openness to dialogue is welcome. We call upon all medical interns and Ugandans to use respectful language as we engage Government on this matter. PSU remains committed to excellence in service delivery.

We therefore appeal to the Ministry of Health to treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and to ensure that the welfare of all medical interns is addressed to enable them to report and serve Ugandans effectively. PSU will provide updates as engagements progress. For any concerns, please contact the PSU Secretariat.

Meanwhile, during induction by the PSU Council you were provided with a copy of the UCG, BNF, logbook, clinical coat, and provisional certificates of practice. You should be revising for your Post-Internship Examinations and living responsibly. Do not be desperate and engage in risky behaviors. Seek mentorship from registered pharmacists. The PSU Mentorship Guide is downloadable on the PSU website: <http://www.psu.or.ug>

Thank you for your patience and solidarity.

Yours in service,

Per Medicatum Servimus
With Medicines We Serve



Dr. Lutoti Stephen
Secretary, Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda



CC: The Rt. Hon. Minister of Health
The Rt. Hon. Minister of Local Government
The Rt. Hon. Minister of Public Service
The Hon. State Minister for Local Government
The Hon. State Minister for Public Service
The Hon. State Minister of Health (Primary Health Care)
The Chairperson, Committee on Health, Parliament
The Director General Health Services, MoH
The Secretary, Health Service Commission
The Commissioner, Pharmaceuticals and Natural Medicines, MOH
The General Manager, National Medical Stores
The Secretary to the Authority, National Drug Authority
The President, Uganda Medical Association
The President, Uganda Dental Association
The President, Association of Graduate Nurses and Midwives
The President, Association of Intern Pharmacists Uganda
The President, Federation of Uganda Medical Interns
All Hospital Pharmacists in Uganda
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