

FDA Analyses Samples of Antimalarial and Analgesics on the Ghanaian market

Malaria has been a major cause of poverty and low productivity accounting for about 32.5 percent of all OPD attendances and 48.8 percent of under five years admissions in the country. (NMCP Annual report, 2009). Ghana is now implementing a malaria control programme with a goal that generally aims at reducing death and illness due to the malaria disease by 75% by the year 2015 in line with the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

One critical factor to attain this goal is the quality of antimalarial medicines used in treating the disease. In line with this the FDA in collaboration with the USP PQM program has since 2008 been monitoring the quality of antimalarial medicines on the Ghanaian market together with the analgesics used in treating symptoms of the disease. The exercise involved sampling from sentinel sites throughout the country and testing at the FDA laboratory.

Results from these monitoring exercises indicated a marked reduction in the proportion of substandard antimalarials and analgesics from 2013 to 2015.

Laboratory tests for antimalarial

Year	No of samples	No of samples passed	No of samples failed
2013	235	218 (92.8%)	17 (7.2%)
2014	130	125 (96.2%)	5 (3.5%)
2015	215	209 (97.2%)	6 (2.8%)

Laboratory tests for analgesics

Year	No of samples	No of samples passed	No of samples failed
2013	110	91 (82.7%)	19 (17.3%)
2014	102	88 (86.3%)	14 (13.7%)
2015	87	76 (87.4%)	11 (12.6%)

FDA Analyses Samples of Zinc Sulphate Tablets on the Ghanaian market

Diarrheal diseases are the fourth leading cause of child mortality in Ghana, accounting for an estimated 9% of all mortality among children under 5 years of age. (*Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2008: a systematic analysis. Lancet.*)

In 2010, Ghana adopted the WHO/UNICEF guidelines that recommend treating acute diarrhea in children under 5 years with a new, lower-osmolarity ORS plus 20 mg of Zinc Sulphate (10 mg of Zinc Sulphate for children younger than 6 months). (www.ghspjournal.org).

The FDA in 2016 undertook a monitoring exercise to assess the quality of Zinc Sulphate tablets on the market.

Laboratory tests for Zinc Sulphate Tablets

Year	No of samples	No of samples passed
2016	54	100%