The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has held a training program for the National Service Personnel (NSP) of the Wenchi Municipal Area in the Bono Region to educate them on the negative effects of drug abuse especially Tramadol and the FDA's Registration processes for its regulated products on 10th October 2019.

The public education was carried out as part of the FDA’s resolve to combat the abuse of substances especially opioids and also to encourage young entrepreneurs to understand the registration processes of the FDA to enable them bring their operations into compliance.

The participants were informed that per the Public Health Act, Act, 2012, 851 section 97 and 118, a person shall not manufacture, prepare import, export, distribute, sell, supply or exhibit for sale any of the products regulated by FDA unless the product has been registered. Products regulated by the Authority include food, drugs (herbal, allopathic and homeopathic) cosmetics, house hold chemicals, medical devices, tobacco and tobacco products as well as blood and blood products.

Additionally, they were informed of the minimum requirements and certificates that need to be acquired before they can go ahead with the registration process; these include
Business Registration, Food Handler’s Certificates and Certificates of Analysis of the product. They were also educated on how to complete the necessary registration documents and were notified to attach the required samples of the products they wish to register.

The FDA officials further explained what some persons describe to be the cumbersome processes and what may lead to the delay in these processes. These issues according to the officials may include not meeting the requirement for laboratory analysis, inadequate documentation, and inappropriate labeling of the product.

There was assurance from the officers of the FDA that when all requirements are satisfactorily provided by the applicants, the product(s) would receive approval within a maximum period of 3 months and the registration status is valid for 3 years after which, the manufacturer or importer is required to apply for renewal of registration for the product.

Tramadol is a prescription only analgesic (pain killer) that is used in the treatment of acute to severe pains such as the pain through accidents and surgical operations. The dosage forms that has been approved for Ghana by the FDA is 50mg and100mg as well as 50mg/ml-2ml.
However, the frequent and widespread abuse of this medicine created the necessity to restrict Tramadol as a controlled substance.

The participants were further made to know that the abuse of Tramadol results in headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, constipation, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, confusion, brain damage and itching. Other symptoms may be excessive sweating, flushing (warmth, redness or tingly feeling), noisy breathing, sighing, shallow breathing a slow heart rate or weak pulse, a light head feeling (like you might pass out) seizures (convulsions), infertility, missed menstrual periods, impotence, sexual problems and loss of interest in sex.

The National Service Personnel were also educated on the effect of other substances such as tobacco and tobacco related products noting that, in recent days, women tend to have taken a liking in “shisha” more than men for the ecstatic feeling and flavor.

The FDA officials warned NSP’s against smoking shisha and other tobacco products stating that smokers expose themselves to cancer and heart related diseases and other conditions that can have adverse effect on their pregnancy in future.

Participants were further assured that the FDA would continue to embark on public education in schools, Churches, Mosques, Lorry parks and other community places to ensure that traders and consumers help in the promotion of public health and safety.