

FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY MOVES IN TO REGULATE TOOTHBRUSHES

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) as part of its mandate to protect Public Health and Safety is expanding its regulatory frontiers to cover the regulation of toothbrush in the country due to potential health hazards associated with its use.

The Medical Devices Department of the Food and Drugs Authority has, therefore, organised an Inter-Departmental meeting at the Head Office in Accra to interact with the staff for their inputs.

Documented evidence indicates that toothbrushes pose health risks to users. Some of the health risks include: wrong texture choice for tufts which may damage the gum; poorly fastened bristles which can dislodge during brushing causing choking hazard; parts of powered toothbrush breaking off in the mouth during use and causing tooth breakage; Powered toothbrushes causing fires, shocks, burns and even exploding.

Currently, United States of America, Canada, Australia and Nigeria are among the few countries that are regulating toothbrushes.

The FDA as part of the process would be engaging key stakeholders such as Ghana Standards Authority, the Ghana Dental Association, Importers and Wholesalers of toothbrushes, Market Authorisation Holders as well as the consuming public.