In Search of Better Health

KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Research Pharmacist -KEMRI - Wellcome Research Programme

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) is a state corporation established through the Science and Technology (Amendment) Act of 1979, as the national body responsible for carrying out health research in Kenya. KEMRI's vision is "to be a leading centre of excellence in research for human health," and its mission is "to improve human health and quality of life through research, capacity building, innovation, and service delivery."

The KEMRI-Wellcome Research Programme (KWRP) is a partnership between KEMRI, Wellcome, and the University of Oxford. The Programme established in 1989, has evolved from conducting research in the immunology and epidemiology of malaria to a world class research institute conducting multi-disciplinary research that spans molecular biology to health systems and policy research. The Program works across 3 main hubs in Kenya (Nairobi and Kilifi) based at the KEMRI Centre for Geographical Medicine Research- Coast Kilifi and Uganda (Mbale) with an international network of collaborating sites.

Reference Number: KWTRP26/EDD -PHARM /001
Job Title: Pharmacist
Department: Epidemiology and Demography
Location: Kilifi Office
Duration: Two (2) Years, renewable subject to availability of funds and performance

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:
Reports to: Principal Investigator (PI)
Direct and indirect reportees: Assistant Research Officers, Laboratory Technologists

BUDGET AND RESOURCE RESPONSIBILITY:
Financial: None
Budgeting and Planning: None

JOB PURPOSE:

To support the safe and compliant conduct of the RSV Maternal Immunization IMPACT Trial by managing investigational medicinal product (IMP), supporting participant randomization procedures, and ensuring accurate dispensing and documentation of the IMP.

JOB DIMENSION

The Pharmacist ensures the timely and efficient delivery of all pharmacy services at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, supporting both routine clinical services and the RSV Maternal Immunization IMPACT Trial. By providing essential pharmaceutical services and technical assistance, they contribute significantly to health research, clinical operations, and academic endeavors.

As the primary focal person for the quality, regulation, and supply of investigational products and other pharmaceuticals they maintain strict compliance with study protocols, pharmacy law, national standards, and Good Practices. This role is instrumental in the safe conduct of the IMPACT Trial by managing Investigational Medicinal Products (IMP), facilitating participant randomization procedures, and ensuring the precise dispensing and documentation of all study medications.

The role covers all pharmacy-related research activities for the RSV IMPACT Trial, including investigational product management, randomization, vaccine preparation and administration support, cold-chain and inventory control, pharmacovigilance support, documentation, regulatory compliance, staff training, and coordination with clinical, laboratory, and data teams to ensure effective trial implementation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

i. Assume professional responsibility for all pharmacy services for the trial.
ii. Participate in protocol development, submission, and manuscript writing/review
iii. Maintain a thorough understanding of the study protocol, study specific procedures, randomization procedures, trial logistics, and pharmacy requirements to support effective trial conduct.
iv. Contribute to the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and quality systems.
v. Support participant randomization process in line with the protocol, ensuring correct linkage between randomization codes and dispensing of the IMP.
vi. Train and supervise pharmaceutical technologists, dispensers, and all research staff involved in Investigational Product (IP) handling
vii. Manage regulatory applications for import/export permits, drug testing at the NQCL, and authorization for pharmaceutical destruction.
viii. Develop product specifications and support IMP management, including ordering, receipt, documentation, secure storage, access control, inventory management, and reconciliation.
ix. Dispense the investigational medicinal product and prescribed participant drugs for acute illness and maintain accurate records of all dispensed drugs to ensure accountability and traceability.
x. Maintain complete, accurate, and audit-ready pharmacy records, including dispensing logs, inventory records, accountability logs, temperature logs, and study documentation.

xi. Conduct quality checks on investigational product, report discrepancies, deviations, and temperature excursions, and coordinate return or destruction of unused or expired IMPs at study close-out.
xii. Participate in site monitoring visits, audits, and inspections
xiii. Ensure IMP storage equipment is validated and in good working condition
xiv. Support participant safety by contributing to pharmacovigilance activities, including monitoring, documentation, and timely reporting of adverse events, SAEs, SUSARs, and protocol deviations.
xv. Maintain a compliant, organized, and secure pharmacy environment
xvi. General Responsibilities: Provide routine clinical services and perform any other research, administrative, or delegated duties as assigned by the Principal Investigators.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful applicant will have:

I. Bachelor's Degree in pharmacy or any other relevant field from a recognized university
II. Must be registered with the Pharmacy & Poisons Board.
III. Registration Certificate as a Pharmacist (PPB), Annual Practice License for a Pharmacist (PPB)
IV. Sound knowledge of GCP, SOPs, Pharmacy law and regulatory requirements, and pharmacovigilance.
V. Experience working in vaccine or maternal–infant studies is an added advantage

BEHAVIOURAL COMPETENCIES:

i. Demonstrated high levels of integrity and confidentiality
ii. Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills
iii. Ability to work with diverse, multidisciplinary teams and build strong relationships with internal and external collaborators
iv. Excellent analytical skills and ability to deliver quality outputs within strict timelines.
v. Strong team management and decision-making skills

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT/CONDITIONS:

The postholder will be expected to work flexibly, including occasionally outside normal working hours when required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

All applications for roles in KEMRI and its partners (including KWRP) are centrally applied for using KEMRI e-recruitment portal. To apply for this post, you must register as a user. Log into your account, then proceed to the vacancies, view the post and click on the button: **"Apply Now"**

Applications which should include your CV, Cover letter, copies of certified academic certificates, testimonials and other relevant documents should be made through KEMRI Website

Successful candidates will be required to provide the following: Certificate of good conduct, Higher Education Loans Board compliance certificate, KRA Tax compliance certificate, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission clearance.

Applicants are required to state their current/last salary.

Applicants are required to provide a valid email address and telephone number for communication regarding interview invitations. **Only shortlisted applicants** will be contacted. During the interview, shortlisted candidates must present the **ORIGINALS** of the following documents: National Identity Card or Passport, academic and professional certificates, academic transcripts, testimonials, a detailed curriculum vitae (CV), and a valid clearance certificate (Certificate of Good Conduct or its equivalent).

All the applications to be done through KEMRI e-recruitment portal on or before **16th June,2026** by 5.00 p.m.

KEMRI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITED TO DIVERSITY; PERSONS WHO ARE ABLED DIFFERENTLY, WOMEN, YOUTH AND THOSE FROM MARGINALIZED AREAS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. DIRECT OR INDIRECT CANVASSING WILL LEAD TO AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION. KEMRI DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF ITS RECRUITMENT PROCESS INCLUDING APPLICATION, INTERVIEW AND PROCESSING OF OFFER LETTER. IF ASKED FOR A FEE, REPORT SUCH REQUEST IMMEDIATELY.