Quality Assurance pharmacist (QA)

Pharmacist position in MSF International Pharmaceutical Coordination

Location: Barcelona, Geneva, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam
Contract: 80% position
Assignment: 1 year with possible extension after successful evaluation
Starting date: July 2019
Deadline for applications: 9th June 2019

I. MSF INTERNATIONAL

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural disasters. MSF offers assistance to people based only on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF International is the legal entity that binds MSF's 21 sections, 24 associations and other offices together. Based in Geneva, the MSF International Office provides coordination, information and support to the MSF Movement, as well as implements international projects and initiatives as requested. The International Office also provides administrative support to the MSF Access Campaign.

II. POSITION BACKGROUND

One of the objectives of the pharma network is to assure the quality of medicines in MSF projects. The pharma network is mainly composed of pharmacists working in the medical departments of the operational centers (section pharmacists, pharmacy advisors), pharmacists in European Supply Centres (ESC), pharmacists in the Access Campaign and regional/intersectional pharmacists.

Coordination of this network is done by the International Pharmacist Coordinator (IPC) who has a permanent position within the International Office.

Main activities of the International Pharmaceutical Coordination team (from an International QA perspective) are:

- To maintain the coherence of the network (organization, meetings, proactive follow-up and support)
- To coordinate the implementation of the MSF Qualification Scheme for international procurement and all related activities with the support of external experts
- To facilitate and ensure that common specifications and procedures are implemented and used in all sections and ESCs

- To participate to external networks/meetings with other key international actors (UNICEF, WHO, ICRC…) sharing the objectives to improve quality of medicines on the international market.

Experience has shown that a dedicated person to quality assurance can increase the impact of this work substantially. This position aims to take the lead in the search of potential new sources for supply, in the final product evaluations and in the consolidation of MSF QA system as well as guiding a coordinated approach within the ESCs towards access to quality medicines.

III. PLACE IN THE ORGANISATION

The QA pharmacist position is under the direct responsibility of the International Pharmacist Coordinator (IPC).

S/he will be in close contact with the pharma network and particularly the IMES (International Medicines Evaluation Session) group involved in product evaluations, the Priority List group, the members of specific working groups, the ITC (International Technical Coordination), etc.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE POSITION

The objectives of this position are to support the coordinator in the following:

- To work on all pharmaceutical aspects linked to the search of sources, selection and use of essential medicines identified as priority, including support to ITC for any inclusion to MSF catalogues.
- To be the technical referent and to coordinate the product assessment activities delegated to the IPC team by the OCs: final review and approval of product dossiers (including their variations and monitoring), approval of DOEs and organisation of IMES meetings.
- To consolidate the MSF QA documentation system: planning, writing and revision of QA documents.
- To provide technical guidance and support in quality related topics: manufacturer GMP audits prioritization planning, handling of complaints, further development of the UniQuality database, etc.
- To be the referent pharmacist for contact with specific working groups (malaria contact group and others like nutrition, etc. and guidelines team, etc.).
- To support the ESCs in a coordinated approach towards access to quality medicines, convening different stakeholders within supply, i.e. pharmacists and purchasers as needed in order to support joint strategies to overcome barriers.

V. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Search, selection and use of priority essential medicines

- Support the IPC and ESCs in identifying potential new sources for the list of priority medicines and in the organization and follow-up of the priority list meetings.
- Support the ITC and working groups by conducting the QA/supply check related to new medicines requests.

Management of MSF QA documentation system

- Be responsible for planning QA documentation revisions and new documents to be created, drafting QA documents, making sure documents are correctly stored in the share-point and master list is updated, and communicating changes with the relevant pharmacists (IMES, IPC, pharma network).
- Organize the section pharmacists' annual product dossier audit on the implementation of MSF Qualification Scheme carried out together with the ESCs.
- Following audits of MSF QA system, is responsible for CAPA and implementation of the recommendations linked to his/her scope of competences.
- Write an annual report of the QA activities (products approved/not approved/exceptionally approved/products monitored and variations assessed, etc.)

Technical QA referent and coordination of product qualification activities that are delegated to the IPC team by the OCs

- Briefing and coaching of newcomers (section pharmacists, intersectional pharmacists, Access Campaign pharmacists or ESC pharmacists) on MSF QA system, Qualification Scheme and product dossier assessments.
- Ensure close contact with the IMES pharmacists and be their focal point person within the coordination for any support related to QA and procurement.
- Coordinate product qualification activities within the IPC team: organize IMES meetings, write minutes of the meetings and follow-up of the action points, assign and monitor dossier assessment progress, perform final review and responsible for approval of product dossiers (including variations & monitoring) and DOEs.
- Be the focal point of external expert for the assessment of therapeutic equivalence.
- Prepare documentation to submit to DirMed platform to inform decision on exceptional validations, route M, of dossiers.
- Perform the annual risk analysis for prioritization of audits, TVs and MVs planning and support the coordinator in the elaboration of the plan.
- Participate to manufacturing site audits and perform technical/monitoring visits as per plan. Additional ad hoc support may be provided in other specific TVs for LP.

Support to working groups, including malaria contact group

- Revise regularly with the working groups (malaria contact group or others) the list of priority medicines, for which quality sources need to be identified for MSF.
- Support working groups with no dedicated pharmacist in any pharma related issue.
- Be responsible for entering/updating the technical information on anti-malaria medicines quality reviews in UniQuality.
- Be MSF's focal point, internally (SPs, ESCs, AC) and externally (manufacturers, ext. actors), regarding anti-malarial medicines and liaise as needed with the responsible counterpart(s) in the ESCs.
- Contribute and participate in the work of the malaria contact group, including: keep an overview on latest developments in treatments, international recommendations and initiatives; monitor availability and potential procurement problems.

Actively engage with the international pharmaceutical coordination team on quality related topics:

- Contribute to the pharma strategy definition for the Pharma Network.
- Contribute to the planning and implementation of the network objectives in line with the Pharma Network Plan of Action.
- Guide a coordinated approach within the ESCs towards access to quality medicines.
- Facilitate the handling of quality complaints (international and local purchase), their investigation and conclusion, and their good record keeping.

- Provide technical inputs in further developments of the UniQuality tool.
- Liaise with responsible WatSan to ensure updated information on waste management is available for all medicines, by providing technical input on the nature of each molecule.
- Give support to the coordinator on specific requests or dossiers on ad-hoc basis.

VI. PROFILE REQUIREMENTS

Training:
Senior pharmacist (with degree/diploma in pharmacy), preferably specialised in industry.
Experience:
Minimum 5 years of experience. At least 2 years in MSF, experience with similar organisations may be considered.
Experience in quality assurance is mandatory. Good knowledge of MSF quality and procurement policies.

Additional requirements:
Fluency in English mandatory (French would be an asset)
Mature with strong interpersonal and organisational skills
Organized, with attention to detail
Team player
Ability to work and report independently
Willingness to travel regularly in Europe
Able to represent MSF in relevant meetings

APPPLY HERE

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

MSF is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply