



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS AUTHORITY
ZIMBABWE**



Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

MEDIA RELEASE

WARNING AGAINST ILLEGAL MEDICAL PRACTICE AND THE ILLICIT PURCHASE OF SCHEDULED MEDICINES FROM UNAUTHORIZED SOURCES

Embargo: Immediate Release

Harare, 5 June 2026 – The Health Professions Authority (HPA) and Medicines Control Authority Zimbabwe (MCAZ) wish to jointly warn the public against the illegal operation of unlicensed health facilities, illicit distribution of prescription medicines, and the unsafe dispensing of medicines by unqualified individuals.

Background

Recent inspections have revealed an increase in unregistered facilities selling prescription medicines, including anti-hypertensive, antidiabetic, anti-infective, antimicrobial, and antiparasitic medicines. Among these are regulated medicines such as Phenobarbital, Carbamazepine, Fluconazole, Tramadol, Glibenclamide, Praziquantel, Co-trimoxazole, Metronidazole, Doxycycline, and Clotrimazole.

Risks to Public Health

Prescription medicines must only be dispensed by licensed pharmaceutical personnel within registered pharmacies, upon presentation of a valid prescription. Self-medication or purchase from unauthorized sources exposes the public to severe risks, including:

- Incorrect dosing and dangerous medicine interactions
- Accelerated antimicrobial resistance; and
- Substandard, degraded, or falsified medicines.

Legal Violations

The illegal sale and distribution of prescription medications, as well as the operation of unregistered facilities, constitute serious statutory violations:

- **Selling medicines by unlicensed persons from unlicensed premises** contravenes Sections 50 and 52 of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, 1991 (SI 150 of 1991), as read with Section 106 of the same Regulations.
- **The sale of unregistered medicines** is a direct contravention of Section 29(1)(a) of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15:03], as read with Section 29(1a) of the same Act.
- **The operation of an unlicensed health facility** violates the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] Section 99, which strictly prohibits individuals or corporate entities from operating without appropriate registration and licensing by the HPA.
- Furthermore, Section 126 of the **Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]** explicitly prohibits unqualified personnel from performing any act specifically pertaining to a registered profession. Diagnosis, prescription, and clinical treatment must strictly be conducted only by qualified, licensed personnel.

Enforcement

Enhanced surveillance and inspections are underway across all provinces. Offenders will face prosecution and the full force of the law.

Guidance to the Public

Mandated to safeguard public health, the HPA and MCAZ urge the public to seek medical advice, treatment, and pharmaceutical services **only** from registered health professionals and institutions. Genuine healthcare facilities and providers can be easily identified by the visible display of:

1. A valid **Practicing Certificate** from the practitioner's respective Council'
2. A valid **HPA Premise Registration Certificate** for institutional registration, and
3. An **MCAZ Licence** for dispensing personnel and pharmacy premises.

The HPA and MCAZ extend their profound gratitude to the compliant, dedicated healthcare practitioners who continue to uphold clinical excellence and statutory compliance within Zimbabwe's health sector.

Call to Action

The HPA and MCAZ appeal to the public to report suspicious individuals or facilities masquerading as health professionals. Together, we can eliminate these dangerous, unregulated operations and safeguard public health.

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