HEALTH PROFESSIONS AUTHORITY
ZIMBABWE

MCAZ
Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

MEDIA RELEASE

Warning Against Illegal Selling, Purchasing, And Use of Ozempic

Embargo: Immediate Release

Harare, 6 June 2025 – The Medicines Control Authority Zimbabwe (**MCAZ**) and the Health Professions Authority Zimbabwe (**HPA**) wish to warn the public against the illegal sale, purchase, and use of Ozempic, also known as "skinny jab", a prescription medication primarily used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Recent reports indicate an increase in the illicit use of Ozempic for weight loss purposes. However, its use for weight loss outside of medical supervision is potentially dangerous and could lead to serious harm to the user.

As a prescription medicine, Ozempic can only be accessed upon presentation of a valid prescription and should only be used under the strict supervision of a qualified and registered healthcare professional. Self-medicating with Ozempic for weight loss can have serious and potentially life-threatening consequences.

We warn the public against purchasing Ozempic from unauthorized sources, including online marketplaces, social media platforms, unlicensed premises, or unregistered individuals. These sources often lack quality control and may offer substandard and/ or falsified medications. The illegal sale and distribution of prescription medications is not only illegal but also poses a significant threat to public health.

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. Additionally, the sale of unregistered medicines is in contravention of Section 29(1)(a) of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act, as read with Section 29(1a) of the same Act.

The Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) Section 126 prohibits unqualified personnel from performing any act specifically pertaining to a registered profession. Therefore, diagnosis and prescribing should only be conducted by qualified and licensed personnel.

Mandated to safeguard the public, HPA and MCAZ urge the public to seek medical advice and treatment only from registered health professionals and institutions. These can be identified by the possession of a valid practising certificate from the practitioner's respective Council, an HPA licence for premise registration, and an MCAZ licence for both person and premises. It is an offense for an unlicensed individual to diagnose, treat, and sell medicines to the public.

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About MCAZ:

Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, The Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (MASCA) [Chapter 15.03]. MCAZ is a successor of the Drugs Control Council (DCC) and the Zimbabwe Regional Drug Control Laboratory (ZRDCL). DCC was established by an Act of Parliament in 1969: Drugs and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15.03] following which ZRDCL became operational in 1989.

MCAZ is responsible for protecting public and animal health by ensuring that accessible medicines and allied substances and medical devices are safe, effective and of good quality through enforcement and adherence to standards by manufacturers and distributors.

The mandate of MCAZ is to protect public health ensuring that medicines and medical devices on the market are safe, effective, and of good quality.

Notes to Editors:

MCAZ will post this media release on our website. Navigate to the Publications section on the website.

Should you request an interview for television, please send your request to mcaz@mcaz.co.zw and copy dkaiyo@mcaz.co.zw . Include your discussion points in your request.

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About HPA

Health Professions Authority Zimbabwe (HPA) is a health professions regulatory body established after the repeal of the Medical, Dental and Allied Professions Act (Chapter 27:08) and the disbandment of the Health Professions Council (HPC) on 30 June 2001.

HPA seeks to uphold and promote high standards for the healthcare delivery system in Zimbabwe through registration and inspection of all health facilities in Zimbabwe. HPA also plays the role of umbrella body of the 8 Health Professions Councils.

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