

CIRCULAR No. 20 of 2019

To: **Holders of Premises Licences for Pharmacies, Industrial Clinics and Dispensing Medical Practitioners**

RE: **COMMON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE AUTHORITY:**

- (i) **Poor Prescription Record Keeping**
- (ii) **Procurement of Medicines from Unauthorised Sources.**

The Authority has noted with concern an increase in the following statutory infringements which is in violation of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15:03], and its corresponding Regulations:

- (i) Failure to adequately capture patient details when dispensing Prescription Preparation medicines and Pharmacist Initiated Medicines, and
- (ii) Failure to disclose unauthorised sources distributing unregistered medicines;

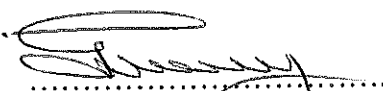
The Medicines and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, 1991, SI 150 of 1991, Section 63, states that "*On the day on which a prescription preparation is supplied or dispensed or, if that is not reasonably practicable, on the business day next following that day, the supplier shall record in a manner acceptable to the Authority, a complete copy of the prescription*". This implies capturing full name and address of the patient, details of the dispensed medicine i.e. quantity, strength and prescriber's details to ensure traceability and accountability.

The Authority has also noted an increase in purchasing of medicines from unauthorised sources which is in contravention of Section 17A of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, 1991, SI 150 of 1991. The Authority has noted with concern failure by licence holders to disclose the source of the unauthorised medicines. Disclosure of the source, will assist the Authority in carrying out compliance and enforcement activities to curb the illegal sale of these medicines and reinforce its mandate to ensure that accessible medicines are safe, effective and of good quality.

Please be reminded that the Authority expects you to conduct your business in compliance with all the relevant statutory provisions.

Yours faithfully

MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE


G.N. MAHLANGU (Ms)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL