



MEDIA ADVISORY

16 August 2023

The South African Pharmacy Council to brief the media on the outcome of the court case which sought to stop increased access to treatment for persons living with HIV and Aids

The North Gauteng High Court ruled against an application by an association representing a small number of medical practitioners seeking to stop the implementation of Pharmacist-Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy (PIMART), an intervention premised on improving access to HIV and Aids treatment and prevention medicines.

The regulator of the pharmacy profession in the country, the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), which was the first respondent in the matter, will brief the media virtually on the outcome and its implications for HIV and Aids treatment in South Africa going forward, under the following details:

Date: Thursday, 17 August 2023

Time: 12:00

Microsoft Teams Registration Link:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b3bb05ab-d7ce-4923-a947-e3e7f5b26c0f@f4b0f21f-fc43-4b5a-a69d-7395940629ef>

RSVP

Member of the media wishing to attend the media briefing may register at the above link or RSVP to Ms Neo Ramokoka at the following details: CommMedia@sapc.za.org or 012 319 8516 / 083 777 8073.

Media enquiries

Media enquires should be addressed to Madimetja Mashishi at the following details: CommMedia@sapc.za.org or on 073 821 5994 / 012 310 8513

Issued by the South African Pharmacy Council

- Ends -

Editors' Note: What is PIMART?

Pharmacist-Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy (PIMART) is a type of pharmacist-initiated therapy which aims to allow PIMART pharmacists to join nurses and other clinicians in the fight against the rising HIV infections in South Africa. In addition, PIMART will help address the lack of adherence to treatment by persons living with HIV (PLWA), and the high number of avoidable HIV-related deaths by allowing them access to antiretroviral treatment through Section 22A(15) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965. Following supplementary training, PIMART allows trained pharmacists to administer first-line treatment to patients or, in complex cases, refer patients to clinicians and/or specialists for the management of their conditions.

Programmes similar to PIMART have been successfully deployed in several countries the world over and can help South Africa attain its HIV targets. The programme may also arrest and lower the ballooning HIV budget (which is nearly half the national health budget) by reducing the rate of new infections, increasing life expectancy among PLWA by ensuring adherence to treatment and viral suppression, and increasing the number of persons testing and referring complex cases along the referral pathways.