



# SAPC e-Note



## SAPC e-Note: JUDGEMENT RESERVED IN PIMART COURT CASE

Dear Pharmacy Professional/Stakeholder,

### **JUDGEMENT RESERVED IN THE PHARMACIST-INITIATED MANAGEMENT OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY COURT CASE**

The South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) and the Independent Practitioners Association Foundation (IPAF) appeared in court on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 in relation to the IPAF's application to have Board Notice 101 of 2022 set aside. After hearing the arguments of both parties, the court reserved judgement on the matter until a later stage. According to the norms and standards of the South African Judiciary, reserved judgments should be handed down no later than three (3) months after the date of the last hearing.

As such, the implementation of PIMART remains suspended pending the final judgement of the court.

#### **What is PIMART?**

Pharmacist-Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy (PIMART) aims to allow pharmacists to join nurses and 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 will allow the pharmacist to initiate 1st line anti-retrovirals if the patient test positive for HIV and 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 and can help South Africa in moving towards attaining 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.

Yours faithfully,

VM Tlala  
**Registrar/CEO**

**Accessible quality pharmaceutical services for all**