



Dear Pharmacy Professional,

COVID-19 IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO BREAK THE LAW

The South African Pharmacy Council acknowledges the panic surrounding the current situation, i.e., COVID-19, and that pharmacies are being inundated with patients requesting various medicines to treat or prevent contamination. It has been brought to the attention of the SAPC that patients are requesting pharmacists to dispense medicines such as Prednisolone, Dexamethasone, Ivermectin, etc. without a prescription.

This communication serves as a reminder to all pharmacy professionals, that the dispensing of medicines scheduled 3 or higher without a valid prescription and selling of unregistered medicines is against the law. In terms of Section 22A (5) and (6) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965, any medicine scheduled 3 or higher may only be dispensed on presentation of a valid prescription. Pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel who are found to have dispensed schedule 3 or higher medicines without valid prescriptions will face disciplinary action in terms of Chapter V of the Pharmacy Act, 53 of 1974.

All pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel are required to observe the prescripts of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965. All patients seeking schedule 3 or higher medicines who do not have a valid prescription, must be advised to consult their medical practitioner, or visit the nearest primary health clinic to obtain a proper diagnosis and appropriate prescription. Only through proper diagnosis and treatment, this pandemic will be put to an end.

As a vital part of the healthcare services, pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel must always remain responsible and act in the best interests of the patient.

Yours sincerely,

TA Masango
Registrar/CEO



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