



SAPC e-Note: PRACTICE ADVISORY – THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF PRIMARY CARE DRUG THERAPY (PCDT) PHARMACISTS

Dear Pharmacy Professional,

SAPC e-Note: PRACTICE ADVISORY – THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF PRIMARY CARE DRUG THERAPY (PCDT) PHARMACISTS

The South African Pharmacy Council (Council) has received queries regarding the scope of practice of Primary Care Drug Therapy (PCDT) pharmacists and hereby provides the following clarification regarding the scope of practice for pharmacists holding a PCDT permit, issued by the National Department of Health (NDoH) in terms of Section 22A(15) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965.

Pharmacists granted a PCDT permit are recognised as authorised prescribers and may diagnose, prescribe and administer Schedule 1 to Schedule 4 medicines for conditions specified in the permit's annexure, or as updated in the Primary Health Care (PHC) Standard Treatment Guidelines (STG) and Essential Medicines List (EML). This includes Schedule 1 and 2 medicines within the pharmacist's scope of practice.

Accordingly:

- a. A PCDT Pharmacist is authorised to diagnose and prescribe medicines for patients. Such prescriptions may be dispensed by other pharmacists or by pharmacy support personnel who are acting within their scope of practice and under a pharmacist's supervision, as with any valid other prescription.
- b. Prescriptions issued by a PCDT Pharmacist may be repeated, where appropriate, in line with the latest PHC STGs and EML, especially for patients requiring ongoing treatment for chronic and stable conditions.
- c. Prescriptions issued by a PCDT Pharmacist may be dispensed at any pharmacy, provided that the prescription is:
 - i. valid;
 - ii. authenticated; and
 - iii. verified in accordance with applicable legal and professional requirements.
- d. A PCDT Pharmacist may declare a patient unfit for work and issue a medical certificate for a period not exceeding three (3) days.

Council trusts that this clarification will promote consistent practice, enhance patient care, and strengthen compliance across the profession.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Tlala
Registrar/CEO



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