



SAPC e-Note: PRACTICE ADVISORY: UNAUTHORISED PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF MEDICINES BETWEEN COMMUNITY/INSTITUTIONAL PHARMACIES

Dear Pharmacy Professional,

SAPC e-Note: PRACTICE ADVISORY: UNAUTHORISED PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF MEDICINES BETWEEN COMMUNITY/INSTITUTIONAL PHARMACIES

The South African Pharmacy Council (hereafter “Council”) has noted, through its routine inspections, the practice of community and/or institutional pharmacies ordering, procuring, or supplying medicines directly to one another outside the approved legislative and regulatory framework governing the supply of medicines in South Africa.

Council wishes to remind all Pharmacists, Pharmacy Owners and Responsible Pharmacists that medicines may only be procured from duly authorised and licensed manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, or other legally permitted entities in accordance with the applicable legislation, including the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965, the Pharmacy Act, 53 of 1974, and the Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) Standards.

The procurement or routine transfer of medicines between Community and/or Institutional Pharmacies, except where specifically permitted under applicable legislation or justified by emergency circumstances, undermines the integrity, traceability, accountability and quality assurance measures of the pharmaceutical supply chain. Such conduct places patient safety at risk and constitutes unprofessional conduct.

Council, therefore, strongly discourages and condemns the practice of community and/or institutional pharmacies sourcing or procuring medicines from one another for stock acquisition or supply, as this constitutes unprofessional conduct in accordance with the *Code of Conduct for pharmacists and registered persons*.

Pharmacists are reminded of their professional responsibility to:

- Ensure that all medicines are obtained through authorised and compliant supply channels;
- Maintain proper records and traceability of all medicines procured and supplied;
- Uphold the principles of Good Pharmacy Practice; and
- Protect the safety, quality and integrity of medicines supplied to the public.

Council will continue to monitor compliance with the applicable legislative and ethical requirements and will take regulatory action where non-compliance is identified.

All pharmacists and pharmacy owners are urged to review their procurement practices and ensure full compliance with the regulatory framework governing the pharmacy profession.

For further clarification, pharmacists may contact the South African Pharmacy Council through the official communication channels.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Tlala
Registrar/CEO

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