



# SAPC e-Note

## SAPC e-Note: THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICAL PHARMACY PRACTICE

Dear Pharmacy Professional

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought on us as Pharmacy Professionals both ethical and practice challenges. The uncertainty of the pandemic and the lack of known treatment for the disease will continue to present us with ethical dilemmas for the foreseeable future. It is therefore plausible that both existing medicines and unregistered formulations will periodically be touted as cures for COVID-19.

In light of all of the hype and social media in this regard, it is necessary for the Council to remind the profession of the importance of always practicing pharmacy lawfully and ethically.

### **Unregistered formulations and control of medicines**

Pharmacy professionals are the custodians of medicines and champions of efficient, ethical application of medicines for the treatment of disease. The Rules relating to Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) require pharmacists to ensure the control of medicines, and to ensure that they dispense medicines justly and ethically (Rule 1.9). Furthermore, the dispensing of unregistered formulations and counterfeited medicines is tantamount to unprofessional conduct (GPP Rules 1.9.2 and 2.3.2).

We thank all pharmacy professionals who continue to put their lives on the line in helping the human race in the fight against COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

VM Tlala

**Registrar/CEO**

**Accessible quality pharmaceutical services for all**