

SALE, PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF UNLICENSED MEDICAL PRODUCTS

This serves to inform the general public that the sale, promotion and distribution of any medical products, medical devices & cosmetics in Botswana are governed by the Medicines and Related Substances Act of 2013 (MRSa). This Act led to the establishment of Botswana Medicines Authority (BOMRA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Wellness that is responsible for regulating the supply chain of all medicines, medical products, devices and cosmetics. i.e.

- Manufacturing
- Distribution
- Sale
- Promotion
- Storage
- Dispensary
- Import/Export

BOMRA has noted with great concern the growing trend by certain individuals and outlets that persistently use social media platforms to promote and sell medical products claiming to cure certain illnesses and conditions. The use of some of these products pose serious health risks to the patients and consumers and at times may lead to addiction or death, especially since their medicinal value, safety and quality have not been proven.

The public is strongly advised to refrain from using unapproved medical products. Instead, you are advised to seek medical assistance from clinics, hospitals and pharmacies for your medical requirements. The medicines and related substances (MRSa) defines “**medicine**” as any substance, mixture, combination of substances, manufactured, sold or presented for use in diagnosis, treatment or alleviation, modification or prevention of disease, illness, abnormal physical or mental condition or the symptom thereof.

Examples include herbal tea, or other medicines that contains as active ingredients, substances of natural origin, and may be derived from any part of plants or animals in a pharmaceutical dosage. Regard being to the above, anyone who is found without a license from BOMRA and is involved in the selling, promotion as well as storing of medicinal and cosmetic products is in contravention of the act and is liable to punishment.

The safety of the public is our priority, and we strongly encourage members of the public to report any incidents of illegal sale and promotion of medical products in Botswana via online or social media or through the toll free line. This invitation is extended to the members of the public including those who may have unknowingly fell victim to illegal sale or consumption. BOMRA is the custodian of unbiased information about medical products, and will ensure that patients gain access to safe medical products through effective regulation and enforcement.