PUBLIC NOTICE

12 August 2022

PERSONAL LUBRICANTS AND “VAGINAL CARE PRODUCTS”

The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (“BoMRA”) has noted with concern the rise in the sale, promotion, and advertisement of products particularly personal lubricants and “vaginal care products” in both the formal and informal sectors. Members of the public and Healthcare Practitioners are advised that these products that are regulated by BoMRA in line with the Medicines and Related Substances Act (“MRS Act”).

Any person who wishes to advertise or promote a medical product must submit advertising and promotional materials to the Authority for approval before use. This includes social media advertisements and promotions. The adverts for medical products shall not contain promises that have not been scientifically proven and shall not make reference to symptoms in a manner likely to mislead the public.

Please note that the registers and/or lists of registered or approved medicines have been published on the following link: https://www.bomra.co.bw/index.php/bomra-downloads/registers. All members of the public, industry or health professionals should refer to these registers or lists to confirm that the medical products they intend to manufacture, import, distribute, sell, promote, dispense or use are approved by the Authority. If the medical product you intend to bring on the Botswana market is not included on the register, please contact, or consult the Authority first to confirm the regulatory status of such a product.

Members of the public are advised to ensure that the medical products that they sell, or purchase are labelled in accordance with the provisions of the Medicines and Related Substances Regulations (“MRS Regulations”). According to the MRS Regulations, labels should contain information that includes the product name, its manufacturer, its intended use, instructions for safe use, side effects and expiry date.

BoMRA would also like to caution members of the public that the use of unapproved medical products may pose serious unknown health risks. Any person who contravenes the provisions in the MRS Act, and its Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable to penalties. The Authority is currently conducting investigations on the reported cases and will be taking the necessary enforcement actions.

The public is further requested to continue **reporting** to BoMRA any sale of unapproved medical products while those transacting with the public on the same are to **cease** such activities until all regulatory requirements have been met.

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