



## Press release

### Medicines Control Council warns against the use of the unregistered medicine, Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS) and similar products for the treatment of medical conditions

**From: The Registrar of Medicines, Medicines Control Council**

Date: 15 May 2016

At its 77<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21-22 April 2016, the Medicines Control Council (MCC) expressed their concern over the use of an unregistered medicine sold as *Miracle Mineral Solution* (MMS) by the public. *Miracle Mineral Solution* (MMS) has been claimed to be effective in the treatment of various medical conditions, including HIV/AIDS, cancer, autism, type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. It is claimed that *Miracle Mineral Solution* (MMS) can remove impurities from the body. *Miracle Mineral Solution* (MMS) is allegedly sold by the Genesis II Church, using a pyramid-type marketing and distribution scheme.

#### **What is Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS)?**

*Miracle Mineral Solution* (MMS) is presented as two separate bottles, one purporting to contain a mixture of herbs and sodium chlorite, and the second purporting to contain citric acid. In accordance with the directions for use, when the two solutions are mixed, chlorine is released. The manufacturer, sellers and distributors claim that the released chlorine will target the patient's affected cells (such as those cells affected by HIV or cancer) and remove those cells from the body.

Sodium chlorite (not to be confused with table salt – sodium chloride) is commonly used as a bleach. It is included in disinfectants or bleaching agents for domestic use. It is also used to control slime and bacterial formation in water systems used, such as at power plants, pulp and paper mills.

#### **Dangers of using Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS)**

The public is warned against the purchase and use of *Miracle Mineral Solution*. The manufacturer, sellers and distributors claim that the product is registered by the Medicines Control Council. The Medicines Control Council has no record of such registration or of an application for registration. The public should be aware that the quality, safety and efficacy of the product have not been evaluated by the Medicines Control Council and therefore the sale of the said product is illegal in terms of the provisions of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965).

The Chairperson of Medicines Control Council, Professor Helen Rees, is requesting consumers to refrain from using any unregistered medicine. Consumers are also urged to report any adverse reaction they experience from using any medicine to the Medicines Control Council. Alternatively, consumers should consult their healthcare practitioners to report any adverse reaction experienced.

The Medicines Law Enforcement Unit of the Department of Health is continuing to investigate the sale of these products and may pursue criminal actions to protect the public from this potentially dangerous product.

**Notes for editors:**

The Medicines Control Council (MCC) is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in South Africa by ensuring that they meet standards of efficacy, safety and quality. The MCC operates in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965), the Regulations issued in terms of that Act, and associated guidelines.

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