

22 December 2020

Ivermectin - Alert

Ivermectin has made headlines recently as a so-called “miracle cure” for COVID-19. However, SAHPRA’s stance is unambiguous. This drug is not approved by SAHPRA and any attempt to import this drug into the country will be perceived as being unlawful.

Ivermectin is not indicated nor approved by SAHPRA for use in humans. There is no confirmatory data on Ivermectin available as yet for its use in the management of Covid-19 infections. In terms of safety and efficacy there is no evidence to support the use of ivermectin and we do not have any clinical trial evidence to justify its use.

At present, there is no confirmatory clinical evidence available for the use of Ivermectin in the management of Covid-19 infections.

SAHPRA is focused on quality, safety and efficacy and its ultimate goal is to protect the health and well being of all those who live in South Africa. The use of such a drug could potentially lead to harmful effects or even death and SAHPRA is firm on the stance that this medicine is unproven in the management of COVID-19 infections. Any attempt to import this drug will be dealt with by SAHPRA’s Regulatory Compliance unit in conjunction with law enforcement agencies such as SAPS and the SIU.

If you are aware of such transgressions, please contact Mr Deon Poovan, Senior Manager:

Inspectorate and Regulatory Compliance on deon.poovan@sahpra.org.za