**MEDIA RELEASE**

# SAHPRA has NOT authorised Ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19

**Embargo: Immediate release**

**Pretoria, 29 March 2021 –** The SABC placed an erroneous report that "SAHPRA has agreed to allow the use of Ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19". This is grossly untrue, misleading to the public and irresponsible and could have dire consequences.

The position of SAHPRA remains steadfast. Ivermectin may be prescribed and dispensed to patients without awaiting Section 21 authorisation, but is still subject to receiving section 21 authorisation, informed consent and all reporting requirements normally required under Section 21.

SAHPRA has registered Soolantra cream which is for topical treatment of moderate to severe inflammatory lesions of papulopustular rosacea in adult patients.

Soolantra cream is not for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

The effect of the registration of the Soolantra cream is that compounding is allowed in accordance with the provisions of section 14(4) of the Medicines Act such as for specific patients, on the basis of a prescription by a medical practitioner.

In amplification of the above, unregistered Ivermectin-containing finished pharmaceutical products may only be accessed under SAHPRA's Ivermectin Controlled Compassionate Use Programme Guideline through the authorised suppliers of such products.

https://www.sahpra.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Section_21_Ivermectin_Controlled_Compassionate-Use-Programme_Jan21_FINAL.docx.pdf

**Issued by:**

Dr Boitumelo Semete

**CEO**

**Boitumelo.semete@sahpra.org.za**

**For further enquiries /information contact:**

**Media contact:**

Mr Yuven Gounden

Cell: 066 1202 669

**E-mail: yuveng@sahpra.org.za**

**About SAHPRA:**

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA's mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act No 101 of 1965 as amended) as well as the Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973).

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.