



MEDIA RELEASE

HEALTH PRODUCT LITERACY TOP OF MIND AS SAHPRA ANNOUNCES ONLINE MEDICINES DIRECTORY

Embargo: Immediate release

Pretoria, June 2022 – The South African Health Products Authority (SAHPRA) is pleased to announce the launch of an Over the Counter (OTC) Online Medicines’ Directory for South African consumers and healthcare professionals. The domain name is <https://medsinfo.sahpra.org.za> and the portal is available on the SAHPRA website.

The OTC Online Medicines’ Directory will include as phase one, all OTC Schedule 0, 1 and 2 registered SAHPRA-approved medicines. These medicines are all available for purchase from a pharmacy without a doctor’s prescription. In the case of Schedule 0 medications, these may be purchased from a pharmacy, supermarket, garage forecourt, spaza and convenience store. These medicines are all indicated for self-treatable conditions.

Pending uptake, SAHPRA will eventually look to include prescription medication, medical devices, and in vitro diagnostic products (IVDs) information on the site.

The OTC online mobile-friendly medicines’ directory will assist with providing the public and healthcare professionals with information on how to use these OTC products safely. A copy of both the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) where available and approved, and the Professional Information (PI) will be accessible via the site. A pack shot of the product in question for easy identification is also available.

“The objective of the site is to ensure that up-to-date and SAHPRA approved information pertaining to these medicines is easily and readily available to the consumer and healthcare professional. The site will include a search functionality to ensure prompt and easy navigation of all OTC SAHPRA- registered products in terms of product name. A company name search is also available,” indicates SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

A link to the **SAHPRA's Med Safety App** can also be found on the site. For more information pertaining to the Med Safety App, visit <https://medsafety.sahpra.org.za/>.

Register for the webinar taking place on 30 June 2022 where this OTC Online Medicines' Directory will be launched between 9h00- 10h30:

- **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/otcreg>

Learn more about the OTC Medicines Directory by watching the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Ft6Da6830R8>

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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.

Notes to Editors:

SAHPRA will post this media release on our website. Navigate to the News section on the website.

Should you request an interview for television, please send your request to media@sahpra.org.za and copy yuveng@sahpra.org.za. Include your discussion points in your request.