



SAPC e-Note



SAPC e-Note: DISPENSING FULL MEDICINE PACK

Dear Pharmacy Professional/Stakeholder,

SAPC e-Note: LEGISLATIVE PROVISION FOR WHEN A PHARMACIST MAY SELL A QUANTITY OF SCHEDULED MEDICINE THAT IS GREATER OR LESS THAN THE QUANTITY PRESCRIBED OR ORDERED

The South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) has observed several incidents where some community pharmacies opt to dispense full pack sizes instead of the prescribed quantities of medicines. According to Section 22(A) 6 of the Medicine and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965: -

- (g) *in the case of a Schedule 5 substance, such sale shall not be repeated for longer than six months, and then only if the authorised prescriber has indicated on the prescription the number of times and the intervals at which it may be dispensed;*
- (m) *a pharmacist may sell a greater or a lesser quantity of a Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3 or Schedule 4 substance than the quantity prescribed or ordered, according to the therapeutic pack in the original container of such substance as supplied to him or her, but the quantity so sold shall not exceed or be less than, 25 per cent of the quantity specified in the prescription or order in question;*
- (n) *any seller referred to in this subsection shall retain the prescription or order concerned for a period of not less than five years as from the date of such sale; and*
- (o) *a Schedule 6 substance may only be sold if the course of treatment does not exceed 30 consecutive days.*

We urge pharmacists to abide by the legislative provision of Section 22(A) 6 of the Medicine and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965 as to when a pharmacist may dispense quantities greater than or less than the quantity prescribed or ordered.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Tlala
Registrar/CEO

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