



2023-01-06

Dear Medical Association of Namibia

RE: Dispensing practices

The PSN wishes to reach out to you to assist in kindly reminding your esteemed members on the safe and ethical practices of dispensing medicines.

We are taking the onus upon ourselves to address the aforementioned matter, as in the past year, we received several complaints from pharmacists who have borne witness to the unsafe dispensing practices from a number of medical doctors. Some of these practices include, but not limited to, dispensing medication without comprehensive and well-written labels and labels with incorrect dosage for children.

Another great matter of concern is that the patients, who have brought this information to the attention of their pharmacists, state that some medical doctors have hired unqualified staff within their practices to dispense medicines and in some instances have set up their own "pharmacy" inside their practice. In some cases, medication was dispensed in the absence of the attending or prescribing medical doctor.

It is with this background that we are making a plea to your office, to work hand in hand with us to protect both our professions by defending the terms stipulated in the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, specifically to Section 31, in terms of who may dispense, what may be dispensed, how it should be dispensed, and how medication should be stored to ensure its quality, safety and efficacy.

For ease of reference – kindly find attached the relevant Act – with special reference to paragraph 11.

We look forward to a better working partnership where we forge forward together, to ensure better healthcare delivery to the nation we serve.

Kind regards

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President



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