Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

MEDIA RELEASE

MCAZ Warns Public on Falsified Cloxacillin Capsules in Circulation

Embargo: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harare, 25 July 2025 – The Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) wishes to alert the public, healthcare professionals, wholesalers, pharmacies, and healthcare institutions to the presence of falsified Cloxacillin capsules being illegally distributed on the market. Gartas Investments has been identified as one of the sources of the falsified product.

The falsified product differs significantly from the genuine registered Cloxacillin manufactured by Varichem Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd. Key distinguishing features include:

- Label Appearance: The falsified version bears sharp-cornered brown labels, while the authentic Varichem product has rounded, orange-coloured labels.
- Capsule Markings: Falsified capsules are unmarked, whereas the genuine capsules are clearly marked "V-CLOX 250."
- Packaging: The authentic Cloxacillin containers are sealed with aluminium foil—a feature missing from the falsified product.

The circulation of falsified medicines poses a serious threat to public health and patient safety due to the potential lack of efficacy, harmful components, and the risk of treatment failure in the treatment of bacterial diseases, leading to antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The Authority would like to draw the attention of all licensed pharmacies, wholesalers, public and private clinics and hospitals that they should quarantine any units of the falsified Cloxacillin 250mg capsules. Thereafter, these quarantined units must be submitted to the Authority for disposal by the 1st of August, 2025. MCAZ continues to work closely with law enforcement agencies and supply chain stakeholders to identify and remove counterfeit medicines from the market. The Authority remains committed to ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy of all medicines available in Zimbabwe.

For further information or to report a suspected falsified medicine, please contact the Authority.

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About MCAZ:

Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, The Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (MASCA) [Chapter 15.03]. MCAZ is a successor of the Drugs Control Council (DCC) and the Zimbabwe Regional Drug Control Laboratory (ZRDCL). DCC was established by an Act of Parliament in 1969: Drugs and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15.03], following which ZRDCL became operational in 1989. **MCAZ** is responsible for protecting public and animal health by ensuring that accessible medicines, allied substances, and medical devices are safe, effective, and of good quality through enforcement and adherence to standards by manufacturers and distributors. The mandate of MCAZ is to protect public health, ensuring that medicines and medical devices on the market are safe, effective, and of good quality.

Notes to Editors:

MCAZ will post this media release on our website. Navigate to the Publications section on the website.

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