

PRESS STATEMENT

6 September 2024

WARNING AGAINST UNAUTHORISED USE OF ALLEGED MAGNETIC RESONANCE MACHINES AND SELLING OF MEDICINES

Harare – The Health Professions Authority Zimbabwe (HPA) and Medicines Control Authority Zimbabwe (MCAZ) have noted with concern the sprouting of unauthorized use of dubious magnetic resonance machines offering a service popularly called “full body scan.” It has been noted that these alleged magnetic resonance machines are being used by unqualified and unauthorized personnel who then proceed to prescribe and sell medicines (both conventional and complementary) for chronic conditions to the unsuspecting public. This poses a serious risk of misdiagnosis and mistreatment to the public.

These acts are in contravention of several statutes. The Health Professions Act (Chapter 27:19) Section 126, stipulates that anyone who is not registered on the designated register who: for gain practices a profession or calling, pretends by any means whatsoever to be on the register or uses any name, title, description or symbol indicating or calculated to lead persons to infer that he is a member of a profession or calling of which a designated register is kept, shall be guilty of an offence liable to a fine or imprisonment or both. Therefore, diagnosis and prescribing should only be conducted by qualified and licensed personnel.

Selling medicines by unlicensed persons from unlicensed premises contravenes Sections 50 and 52 of the Medicines and Allied Substance Control (General) Regulations, 1991, SI 150 of 1991 as read with Section 106 of the same Regulations. Also, the selling of unregistered medicines is in contravention of Section 29 (1) (a) of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act as read with Section 29 (1a) of the same Act.

Mandated to safeguard the public, HPA and MCAZ urge the public to seek medical advice and treatment only from registered health professionals and institutions. These can be identified by the possession of a valid practicing certificate from the practitioner's respective Council, a licence issued by HPA for registration of premises, and an MCAZ licence for both person and premises. It is an offence for an unlicensed individual to diagnose, treat, and sell medicines to the public.

In conjunction with the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the two Authorities will be undertaking investigations and confiscating all such offensive equipment as well as prosecuting the persons operating the said machines illegally. At the same time, the medicines will be confiscated (both registered and unregistered) from unlicensed persons and unlicensed premises.

Issued by

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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 and 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.

Should you request an interview for television, please send your request to mcaz@mcaz.co.zw and copy dkaiyo@mcaz.co.zw . Include your discussion points in your request.

Updates on licences and registrations can be accessed here: www.mcaz.co.zw/documents

About HPA

Health Professions Authority Zimbabwe (HPA) is a health professions regulatory body established after the repeal of the Medical, Dental and Allied Professions Act (Chapter 27:08) and the disbandment of the Health Professions Council (HPC) on 30 June 2001.

HPA seeks to uphold and promote high standards for the healthcare delivery system in Zimbabwe through registration and inspection of health facilities. HPA is the umbrella body of the 8 Health Professions Councils and also acts as a appealing body for health practitioners and members of the public.

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Updates on licences, registrations can be accessed on our social media platforms:

Website: www.hpa.co.zw

Facebook: Health Professions Authority Zimbabwe

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