

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

To: Distributors, Wholesalers, Retailers, Healthcare Professionals, Parents, General Public

### **MEDICAL PRODUCT ADVISORY: FALSIFIED OZEMPIC® IN CIRCULATION**

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) is a statutory body established under an Act of Parliament, the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 of the laws of Zambia. The main mandate of ZAMRA is to regulate, and control the manufacture, importation, storage, distribution, supply, sale and use of medicines and allied substances for human and animal use for public health protection.

Based on the above, the Authority wishes to alert healthcare professionals, pharmaceutical outlets and members of the public of the global circulation of falsified (counterfeit) **Ozempic®** (semaglutide), a medicine used in the management of diabetes. This product is also used for weight loss. A falsified medical product is one that deliberately or fraudulently misrepresents its identity, composition or source.

Recently, the World Health Organisation and the genuine manufacturer of Ozempic®, NovoNordisk have received multiple reports of various versions of falsified Ozempic®. The reports have come from across the world including Africa. These products have been identified at patient level and distributed in both the legal and illegal (**mainly online**) supply chains.

Genuine Ozempic® comes in three configurations: 0.25/0.5mg; 1mg; and 2mg pens and the pens do not extend or increase in length when setting the dose. Further, product information, such as batch number and expiry date, on the secondary packaging (box/carton) should match the information on the primary packaging (pen).

Since the content of the falsified pens is entirely different from the genuine products, use of the falsified pens poses a risk to patient safety and can have severe health consequences.

As the Authority intensifies surveillance for these products on the Zambian market, it recommends that patients only buy these products from genuine suppliers with documentation pertaining to their source. Further, these products should not be purchased online, as most of the falsified versions are been marketed via unregulated online platforms.

If you suffer any adverse drug reaction/event having used these products, you are advised to seek immediate medical advice and report the incident to the National Pharmacovigilance Unit at Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority by phone: +260 211 432 356/+260 //956 521 094 or email address at: [npvu@zamra.co.zm](mailto:npvu@zamra.co.zm) or [pharmacy@zamra.co.zm](mailto:pharmacy@zamra.co.zm).

Should the public need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Makomani Siyanga (Mr)  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**