



All correspondence should be addressed to the Director General

In reply, please quote  
LET\_LSE\_PMS\_0023/10/25

# ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

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

### MEDICAL PRODUCT ALERT NO. 5/2025: SUBSTANDARD (CONTAMINATED) ORAL LIQUID MEDICINES IDENTIFIED IN THE WHO SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

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, ZAMRA wishes to alert healthcare professionals, pharmaceutical outlets and members of the public that it has been notified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of the circulation of three (3) substandard (contaminated) oral liquid medicines identified in India.

The affected products are oral liquid medicines containing active ingredients commonly used for relief of symptoms of common cold, flu, or cold.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, Indian authorities informed WHO of the presence of **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** in the three (3) oral liquid medicines linked with acute illness and child fatalities in India.

The specific oral liquid medicines have been identified to be specific batches of **COLDRIF**, **Respifresh TR** and **ReLife**, manufactured by **Sresan Pharmaceutical**, **Rednex Pharmaceuticals**, and **Shape Pharma**.

Product details

Annex: Products subject of WHO Medical Product Alert N°5/2025

Product	COLDRIF	Respifresh TR	ReLife
Stated API	paracetamol, chlorpheniramine maleate, phenylephrine, sodium citrate	bromhexine hydrochloride terbutaline sulphate, guaiphenesin, menthol	ambroxol HCL, guaiphenesin terbutaline sulphate, menthol
Manufacturer	Sresan Pharmaceutical manufacturer, No. 787 Bangalore Highways Sunguvarchatraam (Mathura) Kancheepuram, Dist. 602106	Rednex Pharmaceutical Pvt Ltd. Survey No. 586 & 231, NR. SKF Bearing Bavla Bagodra N.H. 8A Kerala, Tal, Bavla, Dist. Ahmedabad-383220 Gujarat	Shape Pharma Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. 4, Surendranagar Rajkot Highway Rd. Shekhpur 363510 Gujarat
Batch	SR-13	R01GL2523	LSL25160
Date of manufacture	05/2025	01/2025	01/2025
Expiry date	04/2027	12/2026	12/2026
Contamination*	48.6% w/v DEG	1.34% w/v DEG	0.61% w/v DEG
Photos	No available photos at this time.		

\*As reported by CDSCO

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**Report Adverse Reactions to:**  
Pharmacovigilance Unit, Lusaka  
Tel: +260 211 432 356  
E-mail: [npvu@zamra.co.zm](mailto:npvu@zamra.co.zm)  
Website: [www.zamra.co.zm](http://www.zamra.co.zm)

## Risks

Diethylene glycol is toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal. The contaminated medicines referenced in this alert are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death. Toxic effects include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, confusion and acute kidney injury leading to death.

To protect patients, it is essential to detect and remove these substandard products from circulation.

ZAMRA wishes to notify healthcare professionals and members of the public that, these products are not registered in Zambia. However, although Indian authorities state that none of the contaminated medicines have been exported from India, ZAMRA has intensified surveillance of the products on the Zambian market as they may be imported through illegal means (including online).

In the unlikely event that you are in possession of these products, do not use them. If you suffer any adverse drug reaction/event having used any of 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**

