All correspondence should be addressed to the Director General

In reply, please quote
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ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 29th June 2026

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

Medical Product Alert N°2/2026
Falsified JAKAVI (ruxolitinib) identified in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean and European regions

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 three (3) batches of falsified JAKAVI (ruxolitinib). These falsified products have been detected in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Türkiye and reported to WHO in May 2026. The falsified products have been illicitly sold to patients via online platforms and, in at least one instance, have also been supplied to patients from a pharmacy.

What is Ruxolitinib

JAKAVI (ruxolitinib) is a medicine used in oncology to treat certain serious blood diseases and complications following stem cell transplantation.

How to identify these falsified products

These products are considered falsified as they deliberately misrepresent their identity, composition, and source. The genuine manufacturer (NOVARTIS) has confirmed that the batch numbers observed on these falsified products are not valid. Specifically, the batch numbers AVT50, FNR06, and SGL04 are not recognized as genuine. Any JAKAVI (ruxolitinib) product bearing these batch numbers should therefore be considered falsified and should not be used.

Analysis conducted by the genuine manufacturer on a sample of the falsified JAKAVI 20 mg (AVT50) identified in Türkiye confirmed the absence of the stated active ingredient, ruxolitinib.

The genuine manufacturer also reported several visual discrepancies in the packaging. In particular, blister strips from falsified cartons of JAKAVI batches AVT50 and SGL04 do not display a batch number.

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P.O. Box 31890, Lusaka, ZAMBIA
Tel: +260 211 432 350 /432 351
E-mail: pharmacy@zamra.co.zm

Report Adverse Reactions to:
Pharmacovigilance Unit, Lusaka
Tel: +260 211 432 356
E-mail: npvu@zamra.co.zm
Website: www.zamra.co.zm

Risks

The use of these falsified products may pose significant risks to patient health. These falsified products may contain no active ingredients, incorrect ingredients, or harmful substances. Their use may lead to treatment failure, resulting in progression of serious disease and an increased risk of death due to lack of therapeutic effect. Patients receiving JAKAVI (ruxolitinib) often have weakened immune systems because of their condition. This makes them particularly vulnerable to ineffective or falsified products which may result in rapid deterioration and severe clinical outcomes. Prompt detection and removal of these falsified products from the supply chain is essential to prevent harm to patients.

Advise to healthcare providers, pharmaceutical outlets and public

Healthcare professionals, health facilities and patients who may be in possession of the affected products, should not use them. They should immediately contact ZAMRA. Pharmaceutical outlets and other distribution centres that may have the affected products are advised to refrain from selling or using them and return them to their suppliers for destruction.

If you suffer any adverse drug reaction/events, unexpected lack of therapeutic effects or observed quality defects associated with affected batches of JAKAVI (ruxolitinib), 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 or pharmacy@zamra.co.zm.

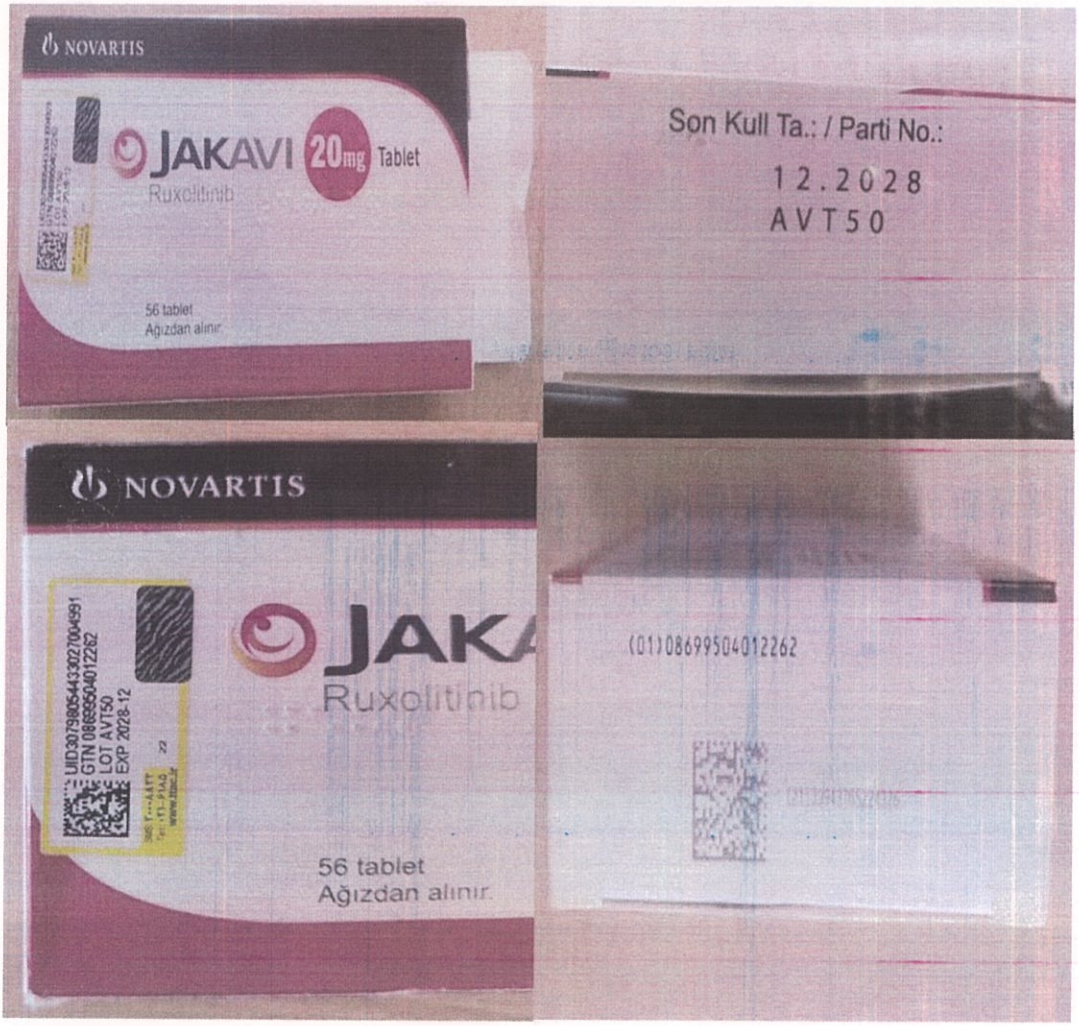
Should the public need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Makomani Siyanga (Mr)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Annex: 1 Products subject of WHO Medical Product Alert N°2/2026

Product name	JAKAVI (ruxolitinib) 20mg		JAKAVI (ruxolitinib) 15mg	
Batch	AVT50		FNR06	SGL04
Expiry	12, 2028		07, 2027	11, 2028
Identified in	Islamic Republic of Iran	Türkiye	Russian Federation	Türkiye
Stated manufacturer	NOVARTIS			
Available Photographs				

Annex II: Batch AVT50 identified in the Islamic Republic of Iran



Annex III: Batch AVT50 and Batch SGL04 Identified in Turkiye

Batch AVT50 and batch SGL04 identified in Türkiye