Quality Medicines for Malawi

PRESS RELEASE

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) INTERNATIONAL ALERT ON CONTAMINATED COUGH SYRUPS

Lilongwe, Friday, 7th October, 2022: Pharmacy and Medicine Regulatory Authority (PMRA) and the Medical Council of Malawi (MCM) are informing stakeholders and the general public that the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Surveillance and Monitoring System on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products has issued an international alert concerning four substandard cough syrups manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited of Haryana, India.

The four cough syrups are **Promethazine Oral Solution**, **Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup** and **Magrip N Cold Syrup** as seen in the photograph below:

These products contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, making them toxic and, therefore, unsafe to use.

The Authority and the Council are, however, assuring stakeholders and the general public that the stated manufacturer of these substandard products is not registered with PMRA to manufacture medicines for Malawi, making it very unlikely for the stated four cough syrups to be available in the country.

The Authority and the Council in line with their mandates of protecting the public from harm and guiding the professions are calling for increased vigilance to guard against importation of unlicensed products and all stakeholders are being encouraged to report to PMRA promptly when they find these products or any illegal products within the country's supply chain.

In addition, the Medical Council of Malawi would like to inform its registered practitioners to desist from storing and prescribing unregistered medicines as they are a danger to the public. Furthermore, the Council appeals to the practitioners to be

vigilant and report any suspicious use or transactions related to the listed medicines. Practitioners who will knowingly prescribe these medicines may commit an offense against the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act No 17 of 1987 and may be subjected to disciplinary hearing.

The Authority and the Council remain steadfast in ensuring that medicines and allied substances being used in the country are of acceptable quality, safe and efficacious in line with our mandate as provided for under the PMRA Act and that practitioners are discharging their duties in strict compliance with their code of ethics.

For further information and/or clarifications please contact PMRA Public Relations Officer, Joseph Josiah on 0885313011 or email at jjosiah@pmra.mw or contact Medical Council of Malawi on +265887379114 or email at medcom@medcommw.org.

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About PMRA
Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority (PMRA) is a statutory organization established by Act of Parliament (PMRA Act No 9 of 2019) to regulate medicines, allied substances and the practice of pharmaceutical profession in Malawi.

About MCM
The Medical Council of Malawi (MCM) was established under the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act No 17 of 1987 to regulate the medical, dental and allied health professions in Malawi.