



Quality Medicines for Malawi

PUBLIC NOTICE

WARNING AGAINST PRESENCE OF COUNTERFEIT EPIDERM CREAM AND EPIDERM LOTION IN THE COUNTRY

Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority (PMRA) was established by an Act of Parliament (Cap 35:01 of the Laws of Malawi) with the mandate to regulate the practice of pharmacy, pharmacy personnel, pharmacy businesses, medicines and allied substances.

In line with this mandate, the Authority registered Epiderm Cream and Epiderm Lotion manufactured by Shalina Laboratories Private Limited as prescription only medicines (POM) after the products conformed to the Authority's established standards of quality, safety and efficacy. The two products are not supposed to be sold in premises other than registered pharmacies upon presentation of a valid prescription.

The Authority has, however, noted with concern the presence of counterfeit brand of Epiderm Cream being sold in grocery shops and other unauthorized outlets. The Authority's investigations have so far revealed that this product is being smuggled into the country from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The investigations further show that the brand is being abused as a cosmetic agent which may result in long term health complications.

The distinctive difference between the registered and the counterfeit Epiderm Cream is that the labelling for the unregistered brand includes a picture of a woman as seen in the picture below:

✓ **Registered**

✗ **Counterfeit**



All correspondence should be addressed to the Director General

The Authority is, therefore, strongly advising the general public to desist from buying and using the unregistered Epiderm Cream while efforts are underway to apprehend and take legal action against all those involved in the importation and sale of this product.

The general public is also hereby warned that the use of medicines that have not been approved by the Authority may result in health complications including toxicity from incorrect active ingredients, incorrect dose or unacceptable levels of impurities being present in the medicines, and even death arising from failure of the medicines to cure or prevent diseases for which the medicines were intended.

The Authority further wishes to remind all traders that **the sale of unregistered products is a contravention of Section 87 of the PMRA Act and punishable with a fine of up to K5,000,000 and five-years-imprisonment.** On the other hand, **sale of prescription only medicines without prescription contravenes Section 65 of the Act and attracts a fine of MK 1,000,000.00 and imprisonment for one year** upon conviction.

PMRA is appealing to the general public to report to the Authority anyone found selling the counterfeit Epiderm Cream or any other medicines and allied substances illegally.

The Authority remains 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 No. 9 of 2019.

For further information, please contact:

The Director General
Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority
P.O. Box 30241,
Capital City
Lilongwe 3
Tel: 0212 755 165/0212 750 108
Email: info@pmra.mw

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