



PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC NOTICE ON MEDICINES THAT CONTAIN CODEINE

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) wishes to announce a public notice to all prescribers, dispensers and general public with regard to medicines that contain codeine as one of the active pharmaceutical ingredient.

All medicines that contain codeine have been rescheduled from Pharmacy Only Medicines (P) to **Prescription Only Medicine (POM)** in an effort to minimise the risk of overuse and addiction. In this regard, they will no longer be sold in a pharmacy or chemist without a valid prescription from a duly registered medical practitioner.

All prescribers and dispensers should **NOT** offer for sale any medicine that contains codeine without a valid prescription from a duly registered medical practitioner. All valid prescriptions should have the following details:

- Patient's name, address and age;
- Medical Practitioner's name, address, and their registration number from Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board;
- Medicine name, strength and their dosage form;
- Quantity prescribed in words and the figures in brackets;
- Signature of the Medical Practitioner handwritten using indelible ink.

Please note that, **NO** refill will be allowed for prescriptions with medicines that contain codeine.

In addition, all marketing authorization holders should make arrangements within the next **six (6) months** to change packages of medicines that contain codeine to include clear and prominently positioned warnings on the label (primary and secondary package), summary product characteristics (SmPC) and patient information leaflet (PIL) about the risk of addiction, and the importance of not taking these medicines for longer than three days.

Any queries about these new requirements on medicines that contain codeine should be addressed through the following email address, Pharmacy and Poisons Board: admin@pharmacyboardkenya.org or pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org

Dr. F. M. Siyoi
REGISTRAR
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

Date: Tuesday 9th January 2018