



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

SAFETY ALERT FOR THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS ON THE OFF-LABEL USE OF SEMAGLUTIDE-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS FOR WEIGHT LOSS

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (hereinafter “the **Board**”) is the National Medicines Regulatory Authority established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap 244, Laws of Kenya (hereinafter “**the Act**”) with the primary mandate to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of Health Products and Technologies.

Pursuant to the foregoing mandate, Section 3B of the Act tasks the Board with the responsibility of ensuring the dissemination of information on health products and technologies to health professionals and the public to promote their rational use. In this regard, the Board hereby draws the attention of healthcare providers to the off-label and irrational use of Semaglutide. Please note that Semaglutide is a prescription-only medicine.

The rising off-label use of semaglutide-containing products, especially those promoted for weight loss, outside of sanctioned medical indications, has been identified through ongoing social media platforms monitoring and a notable increase in complaints and reports from the public and healthcare professionals.

The reports reveal that the product is frequently advertised and utilized off-label for cosmetic weight loss, often lacking medical supervision, dosage control, or proper diagnosis.

Kindly note, Semaglutide (Ozempic and generics) is indicated for the treatment of adults with insufficiently controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus as an adjunct to diet and exercise, either as monotherapy when metformin is deemed inappropriate due to intolerance or contraindications, or in conjunction with other medications for diabetes management.

NOTE: The Board is currently conducting enhanced surveillance and regulatory follow-up in response to reports of inappropriate access and use of the said health product and appropriate legal actions will be taken for any breaches.

The healthcare providers are encouraged to report any adverse events or suspicious activity related to semaglutide use through the following official PPB reporting channels;

Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System: **pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org**

Email: **pv@ppb.go.ke**

Phone No: **+254 795 743 049**

The Board would like to thank you for your continued support and Collaboration.

Dr. F. M. Siyoi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GL/pn

19th August, 2025