



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

**SAFETY ALERT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE OFF-LABEL
USE OF SEMAGLUTIDE-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS FOR WEIGHT LOSS**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) is the National Medicines Regulatory Authority established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap 244, Laws of Kenya (hereinafter "**the Act**"). The Board's core mandate is to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) in the country.

The Board wishes to bring to the attention of the public that **Semaglutide is a Prescription-Only Medicine** and its unsupervised or off-label use may result in serious health outcomes.

Semaglutide, commonly known to the public as **Ozempic and other generic** names, is approved for the treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus that is insufficiently controlled. While the benefits of Semaglutide outweigh its risks, serious safety concerns continue to be raised, particularly when it is used outside its approved medical purposes. Some of the most common side effects of Semaglutide include low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), eye conditions, acid (gastroesophageal) reflux disease, and intestinal obstruction, which can range from mild to severe.

In light of the foregoing safety concerns, the public is advised against the off-label use of the medicines and encouraged to report any suspected side effects and poor quality products through the following official reporting channels of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB);

- Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System **pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org**
- Email: **pv@ppb.go.ke**
- Phone No: **+254 795 743 049**
- USSD Code (For the Public): ***271#**

The Board appreciates your continued support and collaboration in promoting the safe use of medicines.


Dr. F. M. Siyoi
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

19th August, 2025