



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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TO: ALL MEDIA

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EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHARMACY WEEK: 5-11 SEPTEMBER

The week beginning today until the 11th is Pharmacy Week. **"PHARMACY IN THE COMMUNITY- A SUPPORTIVE PARTNESHIP"**, is the theme for this year and is targeted at urging communities to support one another and those who are on treatment or taking medication. This can be achieved by, supporting healthy lifestyles, supporting people living with HIV and AIDS, supporting people living with chronic conditions, supporting people misusing drugs and other substances, supporting immunisation for infants and children and support the use of affordable medicine (generics)

When a Pharmacist dispenses medication to a patient, it is often up to the patient to ensure that they take their medication as directed by the pharmacist. To ensure that patients do not default in taking their treatment it is important for the community to give support to the patient by ensuring that the patient takes the medication as advised by the Pharmacist at all times.

This could go a long way towards ensuring a speedy recovery for the patient. Adherence to medication as dispensed by your pharmacist is particularly important for people who are on chronic medication such as antiretroviral or treatment for diabetes and hypertension.

Some diseases can be cured, successfully treated or put under control if treatment is taken correctly.

Changes in lifestyle can also enhance the effectiveness of medicine.



THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF TAKING MEDICATION

DO'S	DON'T'S
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Medication should be stored in a cool dry place ideally at room temperature below 30°C.-It is important to ask your pharmacist or doctor for storage requirements because other medications have to be stored in the refrigerator.-Speak to your pharmacy or doctor if you have any questions relating to medication-Beware of possible side effects and always consult your pharmacist or doctor-Adhere and endeavor to comply with the treatment plan-Always get medication from a reliable source, avoid buying counterfeit, stolen or expired medicine-Store medication in a safe place and out of reach of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Do not share your medication with someone else-Keep medication away from direct sunlight-Do not remove medication from it's original container. This will ensure that you do not lose the expiry date which is always printed on the container-Do not use medication when it is past its expiry date-Do not store different kinds of pills in one container

When in doubt always ask the pharmacist for advice and always choose the appropriate medicine for your condition.

ENDS

For more information please contact Mr CB Shabalala from Pharmacy on 082 481 8639 or Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943.