

B279/35/07/2024

CIRCULAR NO 7 OF 2024

26th February, 2024

TO: Holders of Premises and Persons Licences

RENEWAL OF PREMISES LICENCES FOR PHARMACIES

The Authority has noted the increase in licensure of pharmacies over the years. Licensed pharmacies have increased from six hundred and forty-one (641) in the year 2016 to one thousand one hundred and sixty-two (1162) in 2023. This has resulted in congestion during the renewal period causing inconveniences to both the Authority and licence holders. Going forward, the Authority has come up with the following measures to manage the flow of applications for the renewal of premises licences.

- (i) Licences will now be renewed on the anniversary of the date the initial licence was issued, instead of a fixed annual date for all pharmacies.
- (ii) Considering that all licences for premises issued in 2023 will expire on the 28th of February, 2024, licence holders are expected to submit their applications for renewal before the 28th of February, 2024.

Please note that the renewal fees can be made in USD or ZWL equivalent. If you intend to make a payment in ZWL, your attention is drawn to Section 15 (3) of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, SI, 150 of 1991 ("the Regulations") which reads *"Where an application for the renewal of a licence has been lodged with the Director-General, the validity of the licence shall, where the applicant has not been given notice of the renewal or refusal of the application by the date of expiry of such licence, continue after the date of expiry until the decision of the Authority on the application is notified to the applicant by the Director-General"*. It means therefore that, as long as an application for renewal is lodged with the Authority by the 28th of February, the previous licence shall continue on the basis of Section 5(3) of the Regulations, until notification is given by the Authority on the application.

The application process will be completed on the day of the anniversary of licensure, upon which the applicant shall be granted a physical licence of 12 months duration, upon paying the requisite licence fee in either USD or the ZWL equivalent.

Please be advised that payment in USD allows for issuance of a temporary licence valid until the pharmacy licence anniversary, followed by a full 12-month licence at no additional cost. Applicants paying in USD will therefore get immediate access to a physical licence issued by the Authority, which shall be extended to accommodate the period till the date of initial licensure.

The Authority reserves the right to move the licence dates a month backward or forward to manage the flow of applications. Affected licence holders will be notified.

Please note that the expiration date for applications for renewal of persons' licences remain unchanged. Licences for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians continue to expire on the 28th of February, annually.

A database listing initial date of licensure for pharmacies is available on the MCAZ website for reference. Scan the 2D barcode below and access the database. You are advised to go through the document and ensure that all your details have been captured accurately. Should you have any queries regarding renewal of licences, please send them to: licensingunit@mcaz.co.zw

Yours faithfully

MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE



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pp R.T RUKWATA (Mr)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

