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REF: B/279/35/23/2023

## CIRCULAR 23 of 2023

Date: 20/11/2023

To: ALL LICENSED PHARMACEUTICAL WHOLESALERS

**RE: ACQUIRING RAMAN SPECTROSCOPY SIGNATURES FROM  
PHARMACEUTICAL WHOLESALERS AND DISTRIBUTORS**

Reference is made to the above.

The Authority would like to bring to the attention of all pharmaceutical wholesalers and distributors that it wishes to acquire spectral signatures for the Raman spectrophotometer for the identification of falsified and substandard medicines in the private sector.

The prevalence of falsified and substandard medicines in the private sector is unknown, but it is likely to be higher than in the public sector, due to lack of full monograph testing of the medicines in our post marketing surveillance. Raman spectrophotometer can rapidly and non-destructively identify the chemical composition of a medicine and produce a unique spectral signature for each medicine, which can be compared with a reference database to verify its authenticity and quality.

To use the Raman spectrophotometer effectively, we need to build a reference database of spectral signatures for the most used medicines in the private sector. This requires obtaining samples of authentic medicines from reliable sources, such as pharmaceutical wholesalers and distributors. The Authority intends to use a risk-based approach to determine products that will be included in the study based on their public health impact, market share and susceptibility to falsification.

Therefore, the Authority encourages all the pharmaceutical wholesalers to comply with this request and co-operate with the inspectors when the exercise commences.

Yours faithfully

**MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE**

R.T. Rukwata (Mr.)

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

/lfm

