



Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

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United Nations International Narcotics Control Board
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500, A-1400
Vienna
AUSTRIA

RE: REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR TRAVELLERS' MEDICAL PREPARATIONS

We refer to the above matter and your letter dated 29 September 2004.

You request that we provide information on all relevant specific legal or administrative measures adopted in Zimbabwe to allow travellers to carry medical preparations containing controlled substances for personal use.

The Legislative Framework

The Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15:03]¹ (hereinafter referred to as MASCA) is also relevant in that it sets out the general requirements for the supply of prescription preparations. These provisions are applicable to Part IV drugs and preparations, to the extent that they do not conflict with the Dangerous Drugs Act [Chapter 15:02] (hereinafter referred to as DDA).

A prescription shall, among other things:

1. Bear the name, address and qualifications of the prescriber.
2. Specify the name and address of the patient or person for whose animal the prescription is issued.
3. If patient is under the age of twelve (12), state the patient's age.
4. Contain, written legibly:
 - Date of issue
 - Registered name, strength and form of the medicine
 - Total daily dose
 - Total quantity of the medicines
 - The directions for use.

¹ And the Regulations thereunder.

5. Shall not be for more than thirty day's supply and shall not authorize more than five further supplies of thirty days each. This shall not apply to the supply of reasonable quantities of medicines to persons who intend to depart temporarily from Zimbabwe.
6. Signed in full by the prescriber.

Controlled substances are regulated in terms of Part IV of the Dangerous Drugs Act² (commonly referred to as "dangerous drugs" or "Part IV drugs").

1. No person who is not an authorized or licensed person may possess a Part IV drug or Part IV preparation. Patients are treated as authorized persons, where the drug or preparation is supplied by a medical practitioner or dental surgeon or on a prescription lawfully given by a medical practitioner, dental surgeon or veterinary surgeon.
2. The prescription must be in writing and adhere to the general provisions of MASCA. In terms of the DDA the following is relevant:
 - Signature of the doctor and the date.
 - Address of doctor
 - Name and address of patient
 - Total amount of the preparation, or, in case of a preparation prepackaged in ampoules, the total amount of the preparation, which is intended to be administered.
3. No prescription will be dispensed unless it complies with the requirements, and the dispenser is acquainted with the signature of the prescriber and has no reason to suppose that it is not genuine.
4. No prescription shall be dispensed more than once unless specifies that it may be dispensed a second, third or fourth time after specific intervals.
5. No Part IV drug may be prescribed for a period exceeding four months without the authority of the Secretary for Health.

Travellers entering Zimbabwe:

- Should bring sufficient stocks for the duration of their stay or alternatively to see a medical practitioner on arrival to obtain a prescription locally.

It is important to note that a foreign patient, resident in Zimbabwe for a short time, is unlikely to obtain a prescription covering a period of more than four months due to the need to report such cases to the Secretary for Health and Child Welfare.

- Travellers would need a prescription and/or a covering letter from medical practitioner as proof of authority to possess prescription preparations.
- Foreign prescriptions will not be dispensed, as the dispenser will not be acquainted with the signature of the prescriber.

² And the Regulations thereunder.

Travellers leaving Zimbabwe:

- Can acquire sufficient stocks for the duration of their stay. They are permitted to acquire these since the limitation of thirty days supply is not applicable to them. Supplies for more than four months can be obtained in cases where the Secretary for Health has been advised and has given authorization.
- Upon request, an export licence may be issued, if required by the country of destination.

We trust this information is sufficient.

Yours faithfully

MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE

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T.H. KOKERAI (Ms.)

For **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

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