

#MedSafetyWeek Campaign 2020

Background

#MedSafetyWeek is an international social media campaign organized every year by the Uppsala Monitoring Centre to **raise awareness of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) and national reporting systems**.

Medicines regulatory authorities and pharmacovigilance centers rely on the reporting of ADRs to ensure medicines on the market are acceptably safe.

The **2020 campaign** will run on 2–8 November and aims to:

- Call on patients and healthcare professionals to report all side effects, especially those associated with new or experimental treatments.
 - Encourage people who take multiple medicines, especially the elderly or those with long-term conditions, to report ADRs;
 - Urge healthcare professionals to review their patients' medication intake, especially when prescribing or administering multiple medicines, and to be vigilant to monitor, detect and report ADRs to the **Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council (Therapeutic Information and Pharmacovigilance Center)**.
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FOR PATIENTS AND CARERS

Always speak to a healthcare professional if you:

- Suspect you've experienced a side effect to a medicine
- Are concerned about taking a medicine
- Need advice when taking medicines

!!! Always take medicines as instructed by your healthcare professional. Make sure you're taking the right ones, at the right dose, in the right way, at the right time**!!!**

!!! Report all side effects, especially when taking a new medicine. Your report adds to the safety information available for those medicines**!!!**

!!! Be especially vigilant if you're taking medicines to treat, prevent or manage COVID-19. The more we know about the safety profile of those treatments, the more people will benefit from them**!!!**

FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Make sure medicines are right for your patient. Ensure they take the right ones, at the right dose, via the right route, at the right time**!!!**

Have you considered that a problem you see in a patient on medicines might be a side effect? Always discuss the potential of experiencing side effects**!!!**

Report all side effects, especially when your patient is taking a new medicine or one that's been repurposed for a new use. Your report adds to the safety information available for those medicines!!!

Be especially vigilant if your patient is taking medicines to treat, prevent or manage **COVID-19**. The more we know about the safety profile of those treatments, the more patients will benefit from them!!!

Reporting can be done via the following platforms:

1. Access the ADR Yellow Safety form: <https://nmrc.gov.na/>
2. Access the ADR Yellow form from the pharmacy
3. Report directly via the eReporting tool available at:
<https://primaryreporting.who-umc.org/Reporting/Reporter?OrganizationID=NA>
4. Contact the Therapeutics Information and Pharmacovigilance Center (TIPC) on Info.TIPC@mhss.gov.na or call 061-203 2406.