



Promoting Safe Medication Practices: Namibia Joins Global #MedSafetyWeek 2024 Campaign

#MedSafetyWeek is an annual global initiative dedicated to promoting medication safety and raising awareness about the risks associated with improper medication use. Spearheaded by the Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), this campaign seeks to prevent medication errors, adverse drug events, and other medication-related issues that affect patient safety.

Namibia, through the Therapeutic Information and Pharmacovigilance Centre (TIPC), plays an active role in this important campaign, using social media and other platforms to increase public engagement. Over the years, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) has shown its commitment to the #MedSafetyWeek Campaign, with 2024 being no exception. The upcoming campaign, scheduled from **4th to 10th November 2024**, will focus on the theme “**Preventing Side Effects**” as part of the country’s ongoing efforts to promote medication safety.

The #MedSafetyWeek campaign is instrumental in reducing medication errors and improving patient outcomes. It raises awareness, fosters collaboration between healthcare professionals and patients, and encourages the adoption of best practices to create a safer healthcare environment. By empowering individuals to actively manage their

medications, the initiative contributes to enhanced patient safety and improved healthcare delivery across Namibia and beyond.

A central focus of #MedSafetyWeek is educating both patients and healthcare professionals about the risks associated with medication use. The campaign emphasizes the importance of proper medication administration, correct dosage, safe storage, and understanding potential interactions between drugs. Patients are urged to engage with their healthcare providers, ask questions, thoroughly understand their treatment plans, and report any adverse effects promptly.

Healthcare professionals—including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists—are encouraged to improve their knowledge of medication safety protocols. Open communication between professionals and patients is key to ensuring effective and safe medication practices, which can ultimately prevent errors and improve patient care.

#MedSafetyWeek serves as a crucial reminder of the need for vigilance in medication use. Through education, patient empowerment, and professional collaboration, the campaign drives progress toward safer healthcare systems worldwide. Namibia's active participation in this global movement highlights its dedication to advancing patient safety and ensuring that medication practices continue to improve for the benefit of all.