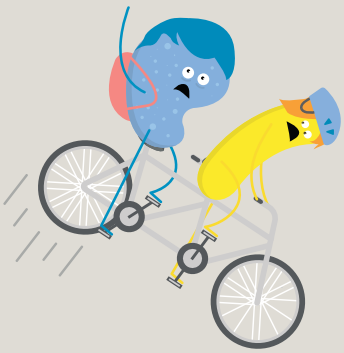
PRESS RELEASE

MedSafetyWeek: 2-8 November 2020

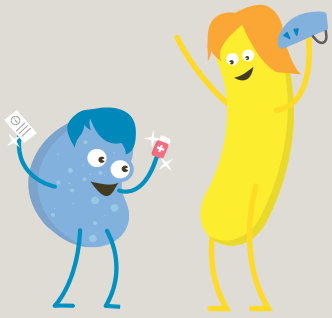
‘Every report counts’ – a call to healthcare professionals and the public to report suspected side effects (Adverse Drug Reactions).

The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) is a new authority that is set up under the Medicines and Related Substances Act (MRSA) of 2013 and was established by the Botswana Government to regulate the supply chain of medicines and related substances, cosmetics and medical devices in order to ensure their quality, safety and efficacy.



BoMRA is participating in the fifth annual campaign called **#MedSafetyWeek** to raise awareness about the importance of reporting suspected side effects from medicines to BoMRA.

The theme of the campaign is **‘every report counts’** and can help others in the future. This #MedSafetyWeek campaign calls on patients and carers, as well as healthcare professionals and their organisations, to report suspected side effects from medicines and are advised not to wait for someone else to report their suspicions.



BoMRA is responsible for protecting and improving the health of the people of Botswana through the effective regulation of all medicines and medical devices by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgments to ensure that the benefits justify any risks.

Medicines are safe and effective, but side effects, also known as adverse drug reactions, can happen. It’s hard to predict who will experience a side effect but it is essential that any potential risks, including how a medicine is used, are understood and communicated.

Reporting helps to identify new side effects or unexpected and serious safety problems and gain more information about known effects. By reporting, you can help make medicines safer for everyone, and you help BoMRA protect the public’s health through effective regulation.

Patient safety is always our top priority. We hope that this important campaign encourages everyone to report suspected side effects from medicines to BoMRA to build a national database of adverse reactions that helps to identify new safety issues.

Every report counts and contributes to improving the safety of medicines for all patients.”

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