



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Office of the Secretary**

P. O. Box 807  
WAIGANI  
National Capital District, Papua New Guinea

Phone: + (675) 301 3601, 301 3634  
Fax: + (675) 301 3604  
Email: health\_secretary@health.gov.pg

**Circular No: 26/2025**

**TO** : All CEO's of Provincial Health Authorities and Provincial Hospital Pharmacists  
: All Pharmaceutical Importers/ Wholesalers, Pharmacy Retailers and  
the General Public

**DATE** : 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2025

**SUBJECT: PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF EXPIRED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

The National Department of Health (NDOH) is strongly prohibiting the use of expired medicinal products in patients seeking medical treatment from any health establishments.

This caution follows a recent report of a patient who experienced a Serious Adverse Event after taking an expired medicine.

You are hereby reminded that dispensing, administering, or supplying expired medicinal products to patients seeking treatment is unethical and must be avoided at all times.

Any establishment, person or healthcare professionals found to be dispensing, administering or supplying expired medicinal products will be penalized accordingly, under **Section 23** and **Section 28** of the **Medicines and Cosmetics Act 1999**. **The Penalty will be a fine not exceeding K5,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both.**

Should you require further information please contact Pharmaceutical Services Standard Branch of the National Department of Health through Email: [nancybala@health.gov.pg](mailto:nancybala@health.gov.pg) or [siporamagaru@health.gov.pg](mailto:siporamagaru@health.gov.pg) or telephone (+675) 3013886/ 3885.

We appreciate your vigilance and prompt action on this important matter.

Thank you for your compliance.

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**Dr Osborne Liko**  
Acting Secretary for Health & **Chairman - Pharmacy Board of PNG**



**Health is Everybody's Business**