



## PUBLIC STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT COVID -19

The Health Professions Council of Namibia (HPCNA) has learnt with great concern that some registered healthcare practitioners are spreading misinformation about Covid-19 pandemic, the vaccination roll out and promoting treatment not supported by the best available evidence.

All registered healthcare practitioners in Namibia are being reminded of their ethical and professional obligation to protect and promote the health of patients and the public and to support all efforts aimed at curbing the spread of the infection.

Healthcare practitioners are respected members of the community and their opinions about health are valued by the public. Misinformation by such practitioners about Covid-19, the vaccine or therapy may therefore be detrimental to the health of the Namibian people and should be avoided at all costs. The HPCNA expects all registered healthcare practitioners to act with honesty and integrity and not to spread misinformation which may compromise patient safety.

Some healthcare practitioners may have strong personal views about Covid 19 and the vaccines, but they must provide factual information to patients and recommend the most effective therapy based on the best available evidence. There is no place for misinformation in professional health practice.

New ideas about measures to contain the spread of Covid 19 and the management of patients in Namibia must be discussed with the relevant authorities through appropriate channels and in a professional manner.

Any registered healthcare practitioner who may be found peddling misinformation about Covid -19, the vaccines and or therapy, will be charged with unprofessional conduct and if found guilty, punished in terms of the law.

During these trying times, the HPCNA appreciates the tireless efforts of all registered healthcare professionals in dealing with the pandemic and urge public members to adhere to all measures that are put in place to curb the spread of the infection. There is evidence suggesting how effective and safe Covid -19 vaccines are and the HPCNA is encouraging members of the public to get vaccinated.

Healthcare practitioners whose conduct may be found to pose a risk to either patient safety or public confidence in healthcare professions should be reported to this number for investigation: 061-245586 or [legal@hpcna.com.na](mailto:legal@hpcna.com.na)

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