



News

PHARMACY MONTH 2019



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The National Department of Health, together with the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) and Independent Community Pharmacy Association (ICPA) is proud to announce the theme for Pharmacy Month, to be held during September 2019: **“Mental health: Are these challenges affecting you?”**. Pharmacy Month is a unique opportunity to market the pharmacy profession, bringing together pharmacists from all sectors to communicate to the public the value that the profession brings in providing quality healthcare. The tag line to compliment the main theme is **“Mental illness can be treated – Ask your pharmacist for advice”**.

The strategic focus of the campaign is to make people aware of issues that may affect their mental health, such as anxiety or stress, addiction, abuse, self-harm and depression. The campaign aims to raise awareness on the importance of mental health matters, and to encourage them to ask for advice and help from their pharmacists should they feel the need. Being an advocate, raising awareness, and taking action in support of mental health conditions helps break down barriers and improves community involvement and support for people that suffer from mental illnesses. The theme aims to reaffirm the community's essential role in supporting people who struggle with mental illnesses.

The pharmacy profession is urged to use Pharmacy Month to promote the role of the pharmacist in the community, and visibly demonstrate what the profession can do in the healthcare sector. Pharmacists are encouraged to disseminate material, start conversations regarding mental health conditions and to actively engage with the public.

Posters and pamphlets will be printed in all 11 languages and ready for distribution to public healthcare institutions in all provinces by August 2019. Artwork will be available for download from the following websites:

- **National Department of Health**
www.health.gov.za
- **South African Pharmacy Council**
https://www.sapc.za.org/
- **Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa**
https://www.pssa.org.za/NewsEvents/Pharmacy

The four organisations will be tagging materials and activities on various social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) using the following tag line: #PharmMonth2019.

The public is encouraged to share their stories using this tag line. Pharmacists are invited to send short write-ups and images of Pharmacy Month activities to pssa.newsletter@pharmail.co.za.



Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa



South African Pharmacy Council



INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PHARMACY ASSOCIATION



Together, we can break down barriers, assist and support and guide all patients with mental health concerns and illnesses towards the road to recovery.

“Mental illness can be treated – Ask your pharmacist for advice”