

THE CHEMIST

THE MAGAZINE FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACY PRACTITIONERS

THERAPEUTICS

PPB (Pharmacy and Poisons
Board) Recalls

TECHNOLOGY

Renew Rx: The Antidote
To Pharmaceutical Waste?

FINANCE

KRA Goes After Chemists
in eTIMS Push

Ukitoka chemist,

ITISHA

receipt



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The government's attempt to integrate businesses onto the eTIMS platform has resulted in an assertive stance against chemists.

It has sponsored advertisements on social media, including on Facebook, encouraging the general public to ask for eTIMS receipts from pharmacies they frequent.

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The Mpesa logo is displayed on a green background. It features the word "mpesa" in white lowercase letters, with a white smartphone icon integrated into the letter 'p'. A red signal wave is shown emanating from the top of the phone screen.


RENEW + RX

REDUCING WASTE • IMPROVING ACCESS



Excise Duty

Herceptin®
Trastuzumab

440 mg

1 vial with 440 mg active ingredient
+ 1 vial with 20 ml solvent





PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

PPB (Pharmacy and Poisons Board) Recalls

BY THE CHEMIST

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), as the regulator of the pharmaceutical industry in Kenya, is in charge of disseminating information requiring recalls of products from the market.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), on May 11th, 2024, shared a public notice regarding a falsified batch of Herceptin 440 mg, a molecule used in treating cancer.

The original product, claiming to be manufactured in Germany by Roche, is batch number C5830083, with a manufacturing date of December 2021 and an expiry date of November 2024, containing the active ingredient Trastuzumab.

**“...falsified batch of Herceptin
440 mg...”**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) confirms in its public notice that the batch is a confirmed counterfeit, underscoring the extensive network of the black market in Kenya, even affecting life-saving medicines, posing a significant threat to healthcare within our communities.



Fast-moving products are most affected, with scenarios of those selling the black market products visiting pharmacies to sell them directly away from the scrutiny of the regulator.

Counterfeiting, as seen with the case of Herceptin shared by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), can negatively impact community pharmacies as they may face increased pressures on pricing if the public gets used to the lower pricing of a product due to unsustainable minimal pricing driven by black market practices which can translate to squeezed margins making it harder to keep a pharmacy afloat.

The PPB (Pharmacy and Poisons Board) released a public notice stating that Roche, the owner of the Herceptin brand, confirmed that the batch was a fake. The notice advised community pharmacies and other stakeholders not to stock or distribute the particular batch.

TECHNOLOGY: RENEW RX: THE
ANTIDOTE TO PHARMACEUTICAL
WASTE?



RENEW + RX

REDUCING WASTE . IMPROVING ACCESS

Renew Rx: The Antidote To Pharmaceutical Waste?

BY THE CHEMIST

Earlier this year, links to a site called Renew Rx started popping up across social media platforms catering to pharmacy professionals whose mission is to limit pharmaceutical waste as they work to improve access to medicine.

A look at their redistribution platform liquidate.renewrx.africa shows products from multiple counties across the country.

Globally, pharmaceutical waste adds up to billions of dollars annually, with community pharmacies contributing to this figure through the 3 to 4 percent average that data says is lost as expiries.

**"...limit pharmaceutical
waste..."**

Renew Rx redistribution platform works on the foundation of collaboration where pharmacy professionals choose to help their colleagues liquidate products they are struggling to move to prevent them expiring on their shelves, which would feed into the global pharmaceutical waste.

TECHNOLOGY: RENEW RX: THE ANTIDOTE TO PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE?



Renew Rx says it's banking on the goodwill of pharmacy practitioners, with some products already liquidated.

Community pharmacies having slow-moving products can submit liquidation requests via a link on the Renew Rx redistribution platform at liquidate.renewrx.africa.

Renew Rx will then upload the products onto their platform, dividing it according to counties to take care of possible additional costs like logistics (though some pharmacies looking to liquidate products choose to cover this cost), as pharmacies close to each other face minimal logistics costs.



FINANCE: KRA GOES AFTER
CHEMIST IN eTIMS PUSH

Ukitoka chemist,

ITISHA

receipt



020 4 999 999 / 0711 099 999



callcentre@kra.go.ke



www.kra.go.ke

KRA GOES AFTER CHEMISTS IN eTIMS PUSH

BY THE CHEMIST

On May 15, 2023, at 11:33 am, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) shared a social media post encouraging Kenyans to demand eTIMS receipts from chemists.

The strategy is part of a broader vision by the government to rope in as many businesses as possible within the tax bracket as the President said their target is to push up taxation to an average of 20 percent.

Some individuals in the comment section of the KRA (Kenya Revenue Authority) post who asked what to do if they did not receive an eTIMS receipt from their local chemist were encouraged by the government agency to report such incidences to them through their whistleblowing platform.

**"...over 7,000 pharmacies
have been registered..."**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), the regulator of the pharmacies within Kenya, has registered over 7,000 chemists this year, a market that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) is keen to tap into.



Can I report if not given the

FINANCE: KRA GOES AFTER CHEMISTS IN
ETIMS PUSH

2d

Like

Reply



Author

Kenya Revenue Authority ✓

Hello  yes you
can report via
iwhistle.kra.go.ke for further
action. ^WC

IWHISTLE.KRA.GO.K



Some pharmacy owners have experienced customers requesting the eTIMS receipt following the KRA onslaught, with several pharmacies registering on the eTIMS platform.



National Stock Outs Impact On Public Perception Of Community Pharmacies

BY THE CHEMIST

Earlier this year, Kenya ran out of a well-known brand of salbutamol inhaler by the company GSK called Ventolin, leading to a public outcry that elicited a government response.

“...outcry that elicited a government response.”

The outcry was understandable given the molecule Salbutamol is used for chronic, sometimes life-threatening condition asthma, which is a severe allergic response affecting the respiratory system.



Several Kenyans shared their frustration across social media, with some accusing community pharmacy practitioners of withholding stock to increase prices, even when the prices had risen higher up the supply chain even among generic brands.

The government response was encouraging users of the Ventolin brand to switch to generic alternatives containing the active ingredient salbutamol, stating that the government had adequate stocks within their facilities while admitting to challenges within the product's supply chain.

Some attributed the out-of-stock situation to the Ventolin Inhaler manufacturing company GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) deciding to transition to eco-friendly inhalers, a move aimed at reducing their levels of carbon emissions, a goal many companies globally are pursuing, and one that the company announced in November 2023.

Other reports indicate that a leading manufacturer of the active ingredient salbutamol filed for bankruptcy in 2023, leading to the shortage as the supply chain adjusted to the impact in the marketplace.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTRY

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT

Floods: The Impact On Community Pharmacy Practice

Kenya has this year experienced one of the worst flooding seasons, with over 100 Kenyans losing their lives and some businesses, including community pharmacies, affected, some never to rise again.

Several leading news agencies shared the extent of damage with a supplier having their premises flooded to knee-length, bringing into question the Kenya pharmaceutical industry's readiness to deal with catastrophic occurrences due to such natural disasters.

"...over 100 Kenyans..."

The Kenya Meteorological Department warns that many Kenya counties face unprecedented rainfall in the coming months, with less than ten counties not on the shared list.



THERAPEUTICS: FLOODS: THE IMPACT ON COMMUNITY PHARMACY PRACTICE

Some pharmacies shared with our team that their businesses were affected, a testament to how climate change affects community pharmacies, with some chemists having their sales drop as potential customers remained trapped inside their houses while others were trying to survive and later rebuild their lives.

With pictures of sewage systems overflowing, the expectation is an increase in water-borne diseases, meaning the public health system will be under pressure compounded by some hospitals getting flooded, meaning patients in catchment areas have to look for alternative healthcare, including community pharmacies.

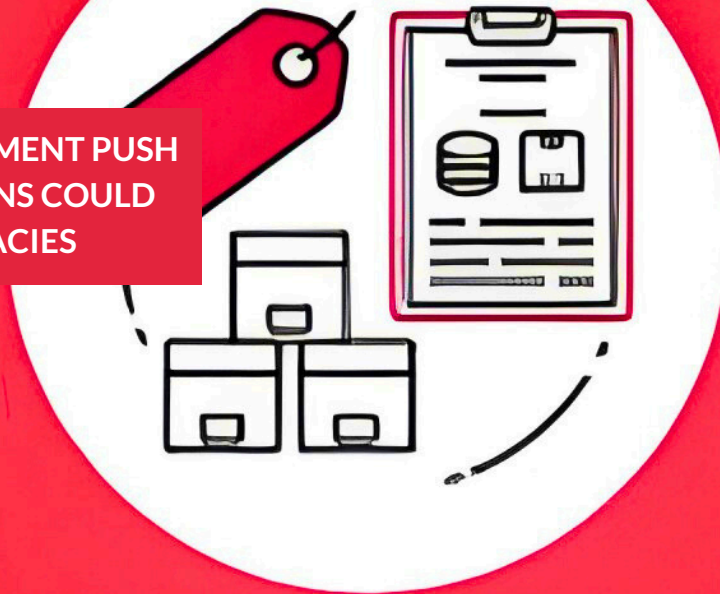


What Government Push On MPESA Transactions Could Mean For Pharmacies

MPESA has since its launch in 2007 become an integral part of Kenya's financial system with reports indicating that Kenyans transacted amounts totaling over Kshs 35 trillion in transaction value in the year 2022.

"...Kshs 35 trillion..."

The government over time has increased taxation on MPESA transactions with the current excise duty standing at 20% leading to an increase in the cost of transactional charges with Kenyans responding by over 600,000, as per some reports, stopping to use mobile money and reverting to cash.



Excise Duty

Some leading banks have taken note of concerns from Kenyans and introduced account packages that, for example, offer free transactions to MPESA from their bank accounts as a way of mitigating costs on behalf of their customers.

Many pharmacies use MPESA in its various forms including tills when receiving money from customers and paybills, for example, when paying wholesalers with some distributors opting to fully absorb the transaction costs for pharmacies.

Pharmacies now have to grapple with the trend of Kenyans shifting their preference to cash as they try to avoid transaction charges with the advantages that cashless transactions have, for example, reduction in insecurity concerns that having cash brings plus having to think of the challenges of getting change for clients in an industry where several pharmacies have one staff manning the pharmacy most of the time.