



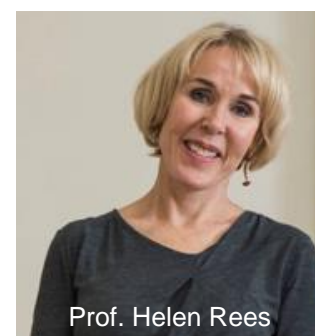
Media release

Minister of Health appoints the Board of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, as well as designating the Chairperson

From: Registrar of Medicines, Medicines Control Council (MCC)

Date: 20 October 2017

On 9 October 2017, the Minister of Health published the names of the 15 members of the Board of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA). In terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Acts of 2008 and 2015, which were brought into effect in June 2017, SAHPRA will replace the current Medicines Control Council as the national medicines regulatory authority.



In addition, the Minister of Health has designated Professor Helen Rees as chairperson of the SAHPRA board, and Ms Mandisa Hela as the vice-chairperson. Professor Rees is the current chairperson of the MCC and Ms Hela is a previous Registrar of Medicines and current member of the MCC.

Those appointed on account of their expertise in the fields of medicine, medical devices, *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices (IVDs), vigilance, clinical trials, good manufacturing practice, public health or epidemiology are Prof. Helen Rees, Dr Ushma Mehta, Prof. Shabir Banoo, Dr Edith Nonhlanhla Madela-Mntla, Dr Henry Leng, Dr Thapelo Motshudi, Prof. Kelly Chibale, Prof. Amaboo Dhai, Prof. Maphahlaganye Mphahlele, and Dr Mphane Molefe. The other members are Adv Hasina Cassim (appointed on account of her knowledge of the law), Ms Mandisa Hela (good governance), Ms Lesibana Fosu (financial matters and accounting), Mr Tinyiko Baloyi (information technology) and Prof. Craig Househam (human resource management).

The newly appointed Board includes a number of current MCC members (Prof. Rees, Ms Hela, Dr Mehta, Prof. Banoo, Dr Madela-Mntla, Dr Leng), but also brings significant new expertise and experience to the medicines regulatory authority. The current MCC and its expert committees will cease to exist on the night before the first meeting of the Board of SAHPRA. The Board will be responsible for appointing a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SAHPRA. Other key positions that will need to be filled include a Chief Financial Officer, Human Resources Director and Information Technology Director.

A careful transition from the MCC to SAHPRA will ensure that the public continues to have access to medicines and medical devices that meet the necessary standards of efficacy, safety and quality.

Notes:

1. The Medicines Control Council (MCC) is currently responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in South Africa by ensuring that they meet standards of efficacy, safety and quality. The MCC operates in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965), the Regulations issued in terms of that Act, and associated guidelines.
2. The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) will carry the same responsibilities, and operate in terms of the same legislation, as amended. However, the decision-making processes will vary considerably, and are expected to result in significant efficiency gains.
3. The Minister of Health's notice can be accessed at https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/41171_gon1091.pdf

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