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PHARMACEUTICAL TASK GROUP (PTG) WELCOMES COURT DECISION AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULATORY OVERSIGHT AND PATIENT SAFETY

Court dismisses iDexis application for leave to appeal in semaglutide compounding matter

Johannesburg, South Africa - 09 September 2026

The Pharmaceutical Task Group (PTG) welcomes the recent judgment of the Gauteng High Court, which refused an application for leave to appeal brought by iDexis (Pty) Ltd t/a Sentra Pharmacy.

Semaglutide is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist that mimics the effects of the naturally occurring hormone GLP-1, which regulates blood sugar and body weight. Their rapidly increasing use and high demand have also contributed to the emergence of unregistered, unlawfully compounded, substandard and falsified products, raising significant patient safety concerns.

The judgment follows an interim interdict granted by the Court in June 2026 relating to the manufacture and supply of medicines containing semaglutide, pending ongoing investigations by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) and the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). The Court held that the order remains interim in nature and that it is in the interests of justice for the regulatory processes to proceed to completion.

The PTG believes the judgment underscores the critical role of South Africa's regulatory authorities in safeguarding public health and ensuring that medicines supplied to patients meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy.

"Patient safety depends on a strong and credible regulatory system," said Dr Stavros Nicolaou, Chairperson of the Pharmaceutical Task Group. "The Court's decision reinforces the importance of allowing regulatory authorities to carry out their statutory responsibilities and investigations. Healthcare professionals and patients must be able to trust that medicines are manufactured, supplied and distributed in accordance with the standards established to protect public health."

PTG is an association of pharmaceutical manufacturers operating in South Africa

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Pharmaceuticals Made in South Africa (PHARMISA) | Self-Care Association of South Africa (SCA)

The PTG has consistently supported efforts by regulatory authorities to strengthen oversight of unregistered, falsified, substandard and unlawfully compounded medicines. Medicines that fall outside approved regulatory frameworks may expose patients to significant risks, including variability in quality, contamination, inaccurate dosing, lack of traceability and uncertainty regarding safety and efficacy.

"Patients should have confidence that the medicines they receive have been appropriately assessed and are supplied through legitimate and authorised channels. The PTG will continue to support decisive, coordinated action to prevent falsified and other unlawfully supplied medicines from reaching patients. Protecting patient safety and the integrity of South Africa's medicines supply chain must remain a shared national priority," concluded Dr Nicolaou.

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Notes to the Editor:

About the Pharmaceutical Task Group (PTG)

The Pharmaceutical Task Group (PTG) is an umbrella body representing four pharmaceutical industry associations – the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines of Southern Africa (GBMSA), the Innovative Pharmaceutical Association South Africa (IPASA), Pharmaceuticals Made in South Africa (PHARMISA) and the Self-Care Association of South Africa (SCA). Through its member associations, the PTG represents organisations responsible for the manufacture and supply of more than 80% of medicines used in South Africa and engages with government and regulatory authorities on matters affecting patient access, medicines regulation and the sustainability of medicine supply.

About GLP-1 receptor agonists medicines and semaglutide

GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) is a naturally occurring hormone released by the body after eating. It helps regulate blood sugar and appetite by increasing insulin release, slowing digestion, and promoting feelings of fullness. Medicines such as semaglutide are GLP-1 receptor agonists that mimic these effects and are used in the treatment of obesity and type 2 diabetes. Medicines containing semaglutide should be obtained on prescription and through legitimate, authorised supply channels.

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