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Circular Letter No. _____ CL/MOH/SG/DPML of **02 OCT 2019**

To lay down the provisions to abide by as concern the importation of pharmaceutical products having a marketing authorization in Cameroon

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TO

- The Directors of wholesale distribution companies ;
- The Directors of medical devices wholesale distribution companies;
- The Promoters of Agencies for the promotion of pharmaceutical products;
- The Representatives of Pharmaceutical Laboratories in Cameroon.

The geographical access and financial affordability of quality drugs and medical devices is a priority of the National Drug Policy. To this end, the Minister of Public Health through its competent services, assesses applications for homologation then provides the opinion of the National Committee on Drugs and Marketing Authorizations for products compliant with the regulatory requirements of quality, efficacy and safety. However, I have noted that some wholesalers distributors register products in Cameroon and hence forth consider themselves as the sole importers and distributors of the said products, thus preventing others to import them. This situation of monopoly is likely to increase stock-outs and the number of applications for marketing authorizations for drugs which are yet available in the market.

I therefore have the honour to invite you to comply with the requirements below:

- Applicants for marketing authorizations should be laboratories manufacturing pharmaceutical products exclusively;
- Once a product receives a marketing authorization, any wholesaler accredited by the Ministry of Public Health may import (after obtaining a technical visa) and distribute the said product throughout the national territory;
- It is strictly forbidden for a laboratory holding a marketing authorization to sign exclusive contracts for the importation or distribution of products with one or more local wholesalers;
- Laboratories requesting for a marketing authorization should commit themselves on honour to sell their products to wholesale distributors accredited by the Ministry of Public Health;
- Any pharmaceutical wholesale company should distribute at least 50% of the products featuring on the National Essential Drugs list.

Defaulters shall be met with sanctions even to the withdrawal of their marketing authorization.

I attach great importance to the strict respect of the provisions hereof.

Yaounde, **02 OCT 2019**

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- DPML/DOSTS/DLMEP/DPS/DAJC
- Communication Unit
- Pharmaceutical Society
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Manaouda Malachie