



PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



CENTRAL MEDICAL STORE COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLE

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE MOVES TO RESTRICT TRAMADOL MISUSE WHILE PROTECTING PATIENT CARE

(For Immediate Release)

18th December, 2025

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Health, has announced immediate measures to restrict and control the misuse of tramadol, citing growing public-health and safety concerns.

The decision follows technical recommendations from the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone and is issued under Section 29(1) of the Pharmacy and Drugs Act, 2001.

Evidence reviewed by Government links the misuse of high-dose tramadol to addiction, road traffic accidents, violent behavior, seizures, overdoses, and preventable deaths particularly among young people. Many of the high-strength products circulating in communities have no legitimate role in standard medical care. Under the new directive.

- Only **Tramadol 50 mg capsules** are permitted for oral Use
- Only **Tramadol 50 mg/mL injectable formulations** are permitted, and these may be used **exclusively in recognized health facilities** under professional supervision.
- Any Tramadol product outside these limits is illegal and subject to seizure.

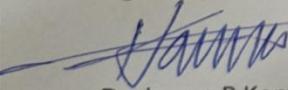
The Ministry emphasizes that this action is not a ban on pain treatment. Tramadol remains available for patients who genuinely need it, under controlled and safe conditions.

The Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone has been mandated to enforce the directive through inspections, seizures and sanctions against non-compliant importers and distributors, working in collaboration with law-enforcement and border agencies.

The Ministry of Health states that the measures are consistent with Government's broader commitment to human capital development and its ongoing efforts to substance abuse, including the fight against Kush.

Government calls on health professionals, pharmaceutical operators, and communities families to Cooperate fully in protecting public health and safeguarding the future Sierra Leone's youth.

Signed by:


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