

## Press Note

Press Note No. 15/DCA/2026

Date: 23-04-2026

The Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, as part of a **special enforcement drive** focused on **weight loss drugs**— Mounjaro (containing Tirzepatide), Ozempic, Wegovy, and Rybelsus (containing Semaglutide), along with other generic equivalents of Semaglutide marketed by various companies and other weight loss drugs —conducted raids at medical shops across the State on **23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026**.

The raids were carried out at several medical shops across the State, with a focus on detecting spurious/counterfeit batches of Mounjaro, Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus and other weight loss drugs, as well as **identifying violations related to their sale**.

During the inspections, discrepancies were observed in **75 medical shops** with regard to non-compliance with the rules governing the sale of such medicines. Accordingly, **Show Cause Notices** have been issued to the violating shops for initiating departmental action.

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The details are as follows:

The Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, conducted a special drive on **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026** at medical shops across the State focusing on **weight loss drugs** containing Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) and Semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy,

Rybelsus), as well as other generic equivalents of Semaglutide formulations (such as multi-dose vials, pre-filled pens, etc.) manufactured by various companies and recently introduced into the market following the patent expiry of innovator Semaglutide formulations, along with other weight loss drugs.

The drive placed particular emphasis on detecting **spurious/counterfeit versions**, in view of the increasing public demand for these formulations for weight loss.

#### ADVISORY

- Weight loss drugs—**Tirzepatide and Semaglutide formulations**—shall be used strictly under the prescription of specialists, viz., Endocrinologists and Internal Medicine Specialists, and, for certain approved indications, by Cardiologists only, as indicated on the label of such products.
- The public is strongly advised **not to self-medicate with such formulations** for weight loss or any other purpose. Improper or unsupervised use of these formulations may lead to serious health complications. Specialists, viz., Endocrinologists/Internal Medicine Specialists, shall evaluate the patient's medical history, existing health conditions, and potential risk factors before prescribing these formulations, and shall determine the appropriate dosage and duration of treatment.
- These formulations **shall be purchased only from licensed medical shops and only against a valid prescription issued by specialists**, viz., Endocrinologists and Internal Medicine Specialists.
- The public is also advised **not to procure weight loss formulations through unregulated online platforms, unauthorized sellers, or unlicensed channels**, as such products may be **spurious, substandard, or unsafe**.

During the special drive, officers of the Drugs Control Administration detected several discrepancies related to the sale of weight loss drugs in **75** medical shops.

The officers identified **violations** with regard to non-compliance with the rules governing the sale of such medicines, including: sale of such drugs without a prescription from a specialist; sale of drugs without issuing bills; non-maintenance of, and failure to produce, sales bills; failure to maintain prescription drug registers; dispensing of prescription drugs in the absence of a Registered Pharmacist; failure to produce purchase bills; irregularities in maintaining copies of sales and purchase bills; and other violations of the Drugs Rules.

**Show Cause Notices** have been issued to the **75** violating medical shops, and appropriate action shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the rules made thereunder.

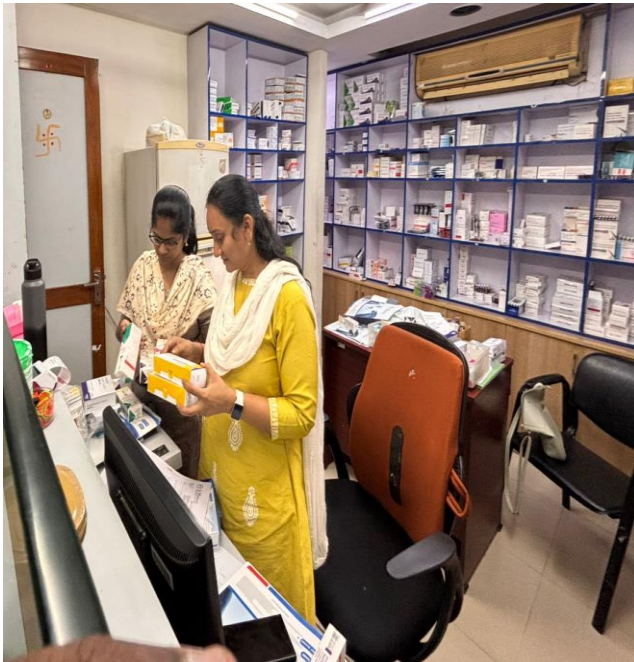
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The public may report any information on suspected **spurious/counterfeit** versions of **weight loss drugs**, as well as any instance of illegal sale, promotion, or misuse of such drugs, through the **Drugs Control Administration, Telangana Toll-Free Number 1800-599-6969**, which is operational from **10:30 AM to 5:00 PM** on all working days.

Date: 23-04-2026

SHAHNAWAZ QASIM, IPS  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

## Photographs



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