FCC | FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION MAURITIUS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## FINANCIAL CRIMES PREVENTION REVIEW -

## A REVIEW OF THE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPORTATION AND MONITORING OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

## AT THE

## PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

## OF THE

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

*June 2026*

# 1.0 Introduction and Overview

The Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) conducted a Financial Crimes Prevention Review (FCPR) of the systems and procedures governing the importation and monitoring of controlled pharmaceutical products at the Pharmacy Department of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MHW), pursuant to Section 6(2)(j) of the FCC Act 2023. This provision empowers the FCC to examine the practices of public bodies with a view to detecting and preventing financial crimes, including corruption, fraud, money laundering, and the financing of drug dealing offences.

The review was initiated following complaints alleging corruption and malpractices in relation to the importation and monitoring of controlled pharmaceutical products. Particular attention was placed on **Pregabalin** and its commercial formulations, namely **Pregatas**, **Nervigen P**, and **Nervigen NP**, which are classified as dangerous drugs under the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000.

The FCPR assessed the legal, regulatory, administrative, and operational framework governing the importation, authorisation, clearance, quota allocation, monitoring, and record management of controlled pharmaceutical products within the Pharmacy Department of the MHW. The review focused on governance and oversight structures, operational procedures, quota determination and monitoring mechanisms, records management practices, compliance systems, and clearance procedures at points of entry.

The review was conducted through an examination of complaints and information received by the FCC, a review of files and operational documents, interviews with management and operational staff, and an assessment of existing systems and practices.

# 2.0 Key Findings

The review identified significant weaknesses and systemic vulnerabilities within the current framework governing controlled pharmaceutical products. These weaknesses relate primarily to:

- governance and oversight mechanisms;
- operational and administrative procedures;
- records management and traceability systems;
- coordination and monitoring processes; and
- compliance and control measures.

The FCC observed a heavy reliance on manual processes, fragmented controls, inadequate oversight mechanisms, weak governance infrastructure, deficiencies in quota allocation and monitoring systems, weaknesses in records management practices, the absence of secure digital systems and certain non-compliance with the law. These deficiencies create opportunities for corruption, abuse of discretion, bribery, unauthorised clearances, collusion, fraud, quota manipulation, document forgery, diversion of dangerous drugs, and the financing of illicit drug activities.

The review further highlighted deficiencies in record management, traceability, and monitoring processes, which may compromise transparency, accountability, auditability, and regulatory effectiveness. The identified weaknesses also expose the Ministry to operational, financial and reputational risks and may undermine public health, regulatory integrity, social stability, and public confidence in the regulatory framework governing controlled pharmaceutical products.

## 3.0 Key Recommendations

In light of the vulnerabilities identified, the FCC has formulated a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening the overall control and governance framework relating to controlled pharmaceutical products. The recommendations focus on:

- strengthening governance, oversight, and accountability mechanisms;
- improving internal controls, quota management and monitoring systems;
- enhancing transparency, procedural consistency and regulatory compliance;
- reinforcing records management, traceability and compliance frameworks;
- promoting institutional integrity and effective management of conflicts of interest
- strengthening controls at points of entry and clearance procedures; and
- supporting the implementation of secure, modern, computerised and digitalised operational processes.

The recommendations are intended to address existing loopholes, reduce opportunities for financial crimes and procedural abuses, improve traceability and auditability, and reinforce public confidence in the regulatory and monitoring framework.

## 4.0 Conclusion

The FCPR conducted at the Pharmacy Department of the Ministry of Health and Wellness identified several weaknesses within the current system governing the importation and monitoring of controlled pharmaceutical products. If left unaddressed, these weaknesses may facilitate financial crimes and regulatory abuses, including quota management, unauthorised clearances, corruption, fraud, collusion, diversion of dangerous drugs, and the financing of illicit activities.

The measures proposed in the FCPR Report aim to improve governance, promote transparency and accountability, reinforce institutional integrity, modernise operational systems, enhance regulatory oversight and address vulnerabilities that may be exploited for unlawful purposes. The implementation of these measures will support national efforts to combat financial crimes, enhance regulatory oversight, protect public health, and strengthen public trust and confidence in the administration, regulation, importation, clearance and monitoring of controlled pharmaceutical products in Mauritius.