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Dear Healthcare Professional,

**RESTRICTING FLUOROQUINOLONE ANTIBIOTIC USE FOR CERTAIN UNCOMPLICATED INFECTIONS**

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) wishes to bring to your attention safety information which advises that the risks of fluoroquinolone use in patients with acute sinusitis, acute bronchitis and uncomplicated urinary tract infections who have other treatment options generally outweigh the benefits due to serious side effects associated with these medicines.

This information followed the recent safety review of fluoroquinolones by the US Food and Drugs Administration which revealed that when administered systemically as tablet, capsule, or injectable, these drugs are associated with disabling and potentially permanent serious side effects that can occur together. These side effects can involve the tendons, muscles, joints nerves and central nervous system.

Healthcare professionals are being advised to stop systemic fluoroquinolone treatment immediately if a patient reports of serious side effects and initiate non-fluoroquinolone antibacterial drug to treat the patient.

In Ghana, fluoroquinolones, registered by the Food and Drugs Authority for systemic use include Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Norfloxacin, and Ofloxacin.

Although the Food and Drugs Authority has not received any report of the disabling adverse drug reactions described by the US Food and Drugs Administration, healthcare professionals are encouraged to report adverse drug reactions to fluoroquinolones and any other medications to FDA by completing the Adverse Reaction Reporting Form or call **024 431 0297** or send e-mail to [drug.safety@fdaghana.gov.gh](mailto:drug.safety@fdaghana.gov.gh).

Yours faithfully,

HUDU MOGTARI  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER