

# Media Release

## **Roche Pharma South Africa announces partnership with Aspen Pharmacare to improve access to Influenza Patients**

**Johannesburg, 8 July 2022:** Roche Pharma South Africa (“Roche”) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Limited (“Aspen”), a global specialty and branded multinational pharmaceutical company, effective 6 June 2022. The terms of the MOU provide for Aspen to act as a third party to Roche in respect of the sales, marketing and distribution for Tamiflu® in South Africa.

“It is our vision to partner with respected organisations to bring existing medicines to even more patients and thus Roche recognises that we have a role to play in broader health system partnerships that make a real difference to patients,” said David Gibbons, General Manager, Roche Pharma South Africa.

It is estimated that influenza (commonly known as flu) kills between 6 000-11 000 South Africans every year<sup>1</sup>. “This partnership is another sign of our unwavering commitment to strengthen and enable access to medications faster to help improve outcomes of influenza patients,” added Gibbons.

Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Group Senior Executive Strategic Trade Development said, “The past two years have demonstrated the impact that pandemics can have on lives and livelihoods. We are noting an increase in mixed infections in parallel with seasonal influenza, which exacerbates comorbidities and mortalities. Tamiflu has a proven track record in reducing seasonal influenza, mortality and morbidity and Aspen is excited at the prospect of working together with Roche in enhancing access to treatment for seasonal influenza and improving patient outcomes. The timing of this agreement is important, given the challenging trajectory that our economy is facing and the need to improve productivity by keeping people healthy. This agreement enables Aspen to extend our sales and distribution footprint by helping to bring Roche products to patients that need these medicines and equally to positively contribute to our country’s public health burden and economic recovery.”

“At Roche, we put patients at the centre of everything we do, and thus we will continue to work with partners across the world to improve access to medicines, so that patients who need our medicines, can gain access to current standards of care,” concluded Gibbons.

**Ends.**

1. [Influenza season. https://www.nicd.ac.za/influenza-season-approaching/](https://www.nicd.ac.za/influenza-season-approaching/)

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## About Roche

Founded in 1896 in Basel, Switzerland, as one of the first industrial manufacturers of branded medicines, Roche has grown into the world's largest biotechnology company and the global leader in in-vitro diagnostics. The company pursues scientific excellence to discover and develop medicines and diagnostics for improving and saving the lives of people around the world.

We are a pioneer in personalised healthcare and want to further transform how healthcare is delivered to have an even greater impact. To provide the best care for each person we partner with many stakeholders and combine our strengths in Diagnostics and Pharma with data insights from the clinical practice.

In recognising our endeavor to pursue a long-term perspective in all we do, Roche has been named one of the most sustainable companies in the pharmaceuticals industry by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices for the thirteenth consecutive year. This distinction also reflects our efforts to improve access to healthcare together with local partners in every country we work.

Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan.

For more information, please visit [www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com)

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## About Aspen

Headquartered in Durban, South Africa, Aspen is a leading global specialty and branded multinational pharmaceutical company in both emerging and developed markets.

Aspen improves the health of patients in more than 150 countries through its high quality, affordable and effective healthcare solutions. The Group's key business segments are Manufacturing and Commercial Pharmaceuticals comprising Regional Brands and Sterile Focus Brands that include anaesthetics and thrombosis products.

Aspen employs approximately 9 100 people and has 69 established business operations in over 50 countries. The Group operates 23 manufacturing facilities across 15 sites and holds international manufacturing approvals from some of the most stringent global regulatory agencies. Its manufacturing capabilities are scalable to demand and cover a wide variety of product-types including steriles, oral solid dose, liquids, semi-solids, biologicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients. For more information visit [www.aspenpharma.com](http://www.aspenpharma.com)

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