Prescription App Compliance Checklist: South Africa

# 1. Planning & Design Phase

* Understand and document all applicable laws (Medicines Act, Pharmacy Act, Health Professions Act, ECT Act, POPIA)
* Define User Roles & Access Levels (Patients, Prescribers, Pharmacists, Admin)
* Plan to host data in South Africa or ensure compliance with POPIA cross-border rules
* Use encrypted, POPIA-compliant cloud hosting

# 2. Development Phase

* Implement explicit consent capture before storing any personal health data
* Encrypt data in transit and at rest
* Implement Role-based access control (RBAC)
* Log all access to sensitive data
* Appoint an Information Officer and document POPIA responsibilities
* Ensure each prescription includes all required legal information
* Enable secure digital signature functionality
* Ensure e-signatures meet legal thresholds for authenticity
* Connect with SAPC database to verify pharmacy licenses
* Verify prescribers with HPCSA
* Maintain a secure registry of validated professionals

# 3. Pre-Launch Phase

* Conduct penetration tests and vulnerability scans
* Perform POPIA audit with legal advisor
* Test secure prescription workflows end-to-end
* Draft and publish Privacy Policy, Terms of Use, and Data Collection Policy
* Develop internal SOPs for data breaches, prescription verification, and complaints

# 4. Launch Phase

* Confirm all pharmacies onboard are SAPC-registered
* Confirm all prescribers are HPCSA-registered
* Ensure backend audit logs are functional
* Finalize SLAs with pharmacies and telehealth providers
* Offer pharmacies the ability to upload fulfillment info & stock levels

# 5. Post-Launch Monitoring

* Conduct regular POPIA compliance audits
* Perform quarterly checks of partner license validity
* Monitor changes to e-prescription laws
* Reassess cloud infrastructure & encryption annually
* Update roles and permissions regularly
* Maintain an incident register for privacy-related events