

NATIONAL



AUTHORITY

166/NDA/DPS/03/2020

26th March 2020

CIRCULAR NO. 034

Attention: General Public

CAUTION AGAINST STOCKPILING AND IRRATIONAL USE OF MEDICINE

It has come to the attention of National Drug Authority (NDA) that there has been increased demand for Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine among the general public due to anecdotal reports of the effects on Covid-19. This has caused unnecessary price hikes, stock piling, hoarding and irrational use of Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine making them unavailable for the part of the public that would rather need them.

NDA hereby informs the general public that Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine are **Prescription Only Medicines** which should only be accessed with a prescription from an authorized prescriber. Chloroquine was previously used in the management of malaria.

Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine like other drugs, if used wrongly are poisons, with very harmful effects such as blurred vision. These effects are even severe in people with underlying disease such as heart diseases and those taking other medicines like Azithromycin.

NDA implores the public to wait for the results of the ongoing studies on the potential benefits and risks involved in the use of Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine in the management of Covid-19.

NDA therefore instructs all pharmaceutical outlets to stop with immediate effect, the irrational dispensation of Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine to the general public; failure of which will lead to dire consequences.

We shall continuously update the general public on any developments in due time.

Thank you.

David Nahamya

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OUR MISSION

Promoting and protecting public health
through the effective regulation of human
and animal medicines and healthcare
products

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