

**NATIONAL**

**DRUG**



**AUTHORITY**

167/NDA/DPS/03/2020

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Safe Drugs Save Lives

**CIRCULAR NO. 035**

To: All pharmaceutical manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers

**IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND SALE OF CHLOROQUINE AND HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE**

National Drug Authority was established by the National Drug Policy and Authority Act (Cap 206) to ensure the availability, at all times, of essential, efficacious and cost-effective drugs to the entire population of Uganda, as a means of providing satisfactory health care and safeguarding the appropriate use of drugs.

In light of recent published scientific reports indicating that Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine are promising treatment options for the management of COVID-19, NDA wishes to clarify that the limited evidence generated by the various laboratory and clinical studies published so far does not show that the two drugs (either alone or in combination with other drugs) are definitive cures for COVID-19, but rather show potential for clinical success, subject to further evidence from more robust clinical trials.

National Drug Authority has received numerous requests for exportation of formulations containing Chloroquine in the recent past. This is to inform you that in line with section 5(d) of the National Drug Policy and Authority Act (Cap 206), National Drug Authority shall not approve requests for exportation of Chloroquine to foreign countries, in order to avert a potential shortage of the medicines on the Ugandan market. Chloroquine is still an essential drug approved by the Ministry of Health to be used in malaria prophylaxis as well as management of other medical conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis; and is accordingly listed in the Essential Medicines and Health Supplies List of Uganda (2016).

National Drug Authority encourages licensed pharmaceutical manufacturers to continue to make Chloroquine formulations available on the market, so that the drug can be used for its approved purposes only under medical supervision. Licensed importers who wish to import drug formulations containing Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine are encouraged to submit their applications to NDA through the NDA management information system (NDAMIS) for consideration.

All pharmacies should ensure that drug formulations containing Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine are dispensed to patients only against a valid medical prescription.

In the event that there is need to use Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine by healthcare providers in the management of COVID-19, this shall be approved by NDA in line with documented protocols for compassionate use.

  
David Nahamya  
**SECRETARY TO THE AUTHORITY**

**HEAD OFFICE**  
Plot 19 Lumumba Avenue P.O. Box 23096, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: (+256) 417 788 100/1 (+256) 417 788 124 /417 788 129  
Toll Free: 0800 101 999, 0791 415 555  
Website: [www.nda.or.ug](http://www.nda.or.ug), Email: [ndaug@nda.or.ug](mailto:ndaug@nda.or.ug)  
Facebook: Uganda National Drug Authority  
Twitter: @UNDAuthority  
**NATIONAL DRUG QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY**  
Tel: (+256) 414 540 067 / (+256) 414 583 095

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

**REGIONAL OFFICES**  
Central Region, Nakawa - Tel: +256 393 261 548,  
Western Nile Region, Arua - Tel: +256 414 671 033,  
South Western Region, Mbarara - Tel: +256 414 671 034,  
South Eastern Region, Jinja - Tel/Fax: +256 434 122 176,  
Eastern Region, Tororo - Tel: +256 454 445 195,  
Western Region, Hoima - Tel/Fax +256 465 440 688,  
Northern Region, Lira - Tel/Fax +256 414 671 032