



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

Ref. PPB/MIP/PMS/CIR/006/18-19

14th January 2019

Dear Healthcare Provider,

Re: Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) Risk of Non-Melanoma skin cancer (basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma)

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and Marketing Authorization Holders of Hydrochlorothiazide Containing products and would like to inform you that reports and new studies have shown a cumulative dose- dependent association between HCTZ and non-melanoma skin and lip cancer (basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma)

You are therefore called upon to be vigilant and take note of the following:

- Patients taking HCTZ containing products should be informed of the increases risk of non-melanoma skin and lip cancer.
- Patients should be advised to regularly check their skin and any suspicious skin lesions reported to the health care provider for assessment.
- Patients should be advised to limit exposure to the sunlight and ultraviolet light to minimize the risk of skin cancer.
- Carefully reconsider the use of HCTZ containing products in patients with previous history of skin and lip cancer.

Call for reporting

Reporting suspected adverse reactions is important as it allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of medicinal product.

Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report adverse events in patients taking hydrochlorothiazide containing products to Pharmacy and Poisons Board *in accordance with the national pharmacovigilance reporting system.*

Any suspected adverse events should be reported to Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Lenana Road. P.O. Box 27663-00506 Nairobi. Email:

pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org or report directly online at
www.pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org



Dr Stephen Kimathi

Director Medicines Information and Pharmacovigilance