



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

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When replying please quote our ref No:

**PPB/MIP/PMS/LET/318/19-20**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Dear Health Care Professionals,

**Re: Information on Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine for COVID-19 Patients**

Following the news that the United States of America is using Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine to treat SARS-COV-2, there has been a rush by many to acquire these medicines from pharmacies to stock them. Please note that clinical trials utilizing the two medicines are currently ongoing and no robust clinical data substantiating their use for prophylaxis and curative purposes is available, hence caution has to be applied when using them.

The Board therefore, prohibits all pharmacies and chemists from dispensing these to clients without a valid prescription from a medical doctor, since there are real patients who are in need and depend on these medications every day to improve their quality of life in the management of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and porphyria cutanea tarda.

Please note that irrational use of these hydroxychloroquine may lead to irreversible blindness which is detrimental to the health of the general public.

The board would also like to thank the health care workers for the continued engagement in matters that involve safe use of medical products and welcome any feedback by contacting us on **0709 770 100** or sending an email to [info@pharmacyboardkenya.org](mailto:info@pharmacyboardkenya.org) or [pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org](mailto:pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org).

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
CK/pm