



26 March 2020

Re: Medical Information request regarding availability of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine

Dear Dr Makan

Thank you very much for your query regarding the availability of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine.

Given the current situation, we understand that patients who need chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine for chronic rheumatological and dermatological diseases may have concerns about the availability of their medicine.

Please note that Sanofi have recently stopped the production of chloroquine sulfate. The decision was taken before the Coronavirus outbreak. Sanofi marketed chloroquine sulfate finished products under the trade name Nivaquine[®], that we used to produce using an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) from an external supplier.

Due to a historical decrease in demand, our external supplier stopped the production of the API chloroquine sulfate and subsequently we had to stop the production of Nivaquine[®].

As rightfully mentioned in your mail, hydroxychloroquine is not registered in South Africa. The molecule could at this stage be obtained through section 21 for the globally approved indications. We are aware that Equity pharma have assisted many patients with the importation of this molecule through the approved section 21 process.

At this stage Sanofi will unfortunately not be able to assist with the provision of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for the globally approved indications. We are at the same time also in discussion with the Department of Health to address the influx of requests for hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19.

Kind Regards

Dr Alicia McMaster
Country Head of Medical : Sanofi
Alicia.mcmaster@sanofi.com