

## CIRCULAR 13 of 2024

**Date:** 30 May 2024

**To:** All Provincial Medical Directors (PMDs)  
All Provincial Nursing Officers (PNOs)  
All Provincial Pharmacists  
All District Medical Officers (DMOs)  
All District Nursing Officers (DNOs)  
All District Pharmacy Managers  
Zimbabwe Medical Association (ZiMA)  
Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe (MDPCZ)  
Zimbabwe Nurses Association (ZiNA)  
Pharmaceutical Society of Zimbabwe (PSZ)  
Community Pharmacists Association (RPA)  
Private hospitals association of Zimbabwe (PHAZ)  
Zimbabwe Association of Hospital Pharmacists (ZAHP)  
All public and private hospitals and clinics

**RE: Invitation to attend an online joint Zimbabwe Anaesthetic Association (ZAA) and MCAZ training on the safe use of Hyperbaric (Heavy) Bupivacaine in Spinal anaesthesia, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 from 9am – 12:30pm**

The Zimbabwe Anaesthetic Association (ZAA) and Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) will be conducting an online Microsoft Teams training on the safe use of Hyperbaric (Heavy) Bupivacaine in spinal anaesthesia and risk management procedures for patients who experience rare life threatening adverse drug reactions (ADRs), on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 from 9:00 am -12:30pm.

From 2021 – 2023, the MCAZ unfortunately received 5 ADR reports with fatal outcomes associated with Hyperbaric (Heavy) Bupivacaine after induction of spinal anaesthesia for surgical operation. All the medicine samples were analysed and passed laboratory analysis. Causality assessment was done by the ZAA and MCAZ PVCT Committee and it was agreed that, to prevent/ minimise occurrence of such cases, anaesthetist training was required on induction techniques for Hyperbaric (Heavy) Bupivacaine. The objective of the training is to sensitise anaesthetists, nurse anaesthetists and other healthcare professionals involved in anaesthesia on risk minimisation procedures and safe use of Hyperbaric (Heavy) Bupivacaine in spinal anaesthesia.

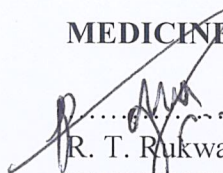
In light of this the ZAA and MCAZ are kindly requesting for anaesthetists, nurse anaesthetists and other healthcare professionals involved in the administration of anaesthesia from your province/ district/ association/ institution to support this initiative and attend the training. The training can be accessed using the Microsoft Teams link or QR code below:

<https://msteams.link/QHT4>  
Meeting ID: 388 779 959 924  
Passcode: amZV23



We have also emailed the Microsoft Teams meeting link. Your usual support is greatly appreciated.

**MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE**

  
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R. T. Rukwata (Mr.)  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**