

Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Prescribing Restrictions

Any prescription for a medication that is being investigated for the off-label treatment of COVID-19, including hydroxychloroquine, will be reviewed for appropriateness. Prescribing restrictions are being expanded to include outpatient prescribing of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as of March 25, 2020 and will be effective until further notice. Please see the [COVID-19 Treatment Evidence](#) on the Intranet for additional clinical guidance.

As data become available, we will continue to update recommendations.

Why are we implementing restrictions on hydroxychloroquine prescribing?

To avoid interruptions in therapy for patients with chronic rheumatologic conditions.

Given the uncertainty of HCQ availability for the foreseeable future, North Memorial Health has a limited supply to meet the needs of our current rheumatology patients. Additionally, as supplies are diminished in the community, we anticipate additional patients may seek out our pharmacies to refill their prescriptions.

***What about the study conducted by the University of Minnesota?!** Any provider interested in participating in this study or referring a patient should reach out to the UMN study team at covid19@umn.edu. North Memorial Health is not supplying medications for this study.*

INPATIENT HCQ Prescribing Restrictions

- **COVID treatment:** HCQ use inpatient is not currently recommended
- **Chronic rheumatologic conditions:** HCQ can and should be continued upon admission. Prescriptions should include a documented diagnosis.

OUTPATIENT HCQ Dispensing Restrictions

- **Chronic rheumatologic conditions:** All new Rx's and refills may be dispensed.
- **COVID treatment/prophylaxis:** No HCQ prescriptions should be filled at any North Memorial Health pharmacy without distinct approval from ID.

Guidance for Outpatient Pharmacists

Upon receipt of a NEW prescription for HCQ...

- 1. Verify indication for HCQ prescription:** Please do your best to verify that it is for a rheumatologic/chronic condition. Consider the following items to help determine if the Rx is for COVID:
 - a. Regimen:** Possible regimens for COVID are as follows:
 - i. Treatment: 400mg BID x 2 doses, followed by 200mg PO BID–TID for 5 to 10 days
 - ii. Prophylaxis: 800mg x 1, then 6 to 8 hours later 600mg, then 600mg once daily for 4 days
 - b. Prescriber:** Although the bulk of our current prescriptions come from our own rheumatologist, we anticipate patients from outside institutions may come to North Memorial Health pharmacies due to lack of availability in outside pharmacies. You may also see some PCPs refilling chronic medications. FYI, our rheumatologist at North Memorial is Mayra Oberto-Medina, DO, FACR, CCD.
 - c. Documentation:** Check clinic/telephone encounter notes to determine what the purpose of the visit was.
- 2. Who to contact if indication for HCQ is COVID:** If providers continues to want HCQ Rx filled despite restrictions approved by North Memorial Medical Incident Command please direct them to Medical Incident Command.