

March 26, 2020

**Notice for District of Columbia Health Care Professionals**  
**Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19):**  
**Appropriate Use of Hydroxychloroquine and Azithromycin**

According to the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are no FDA-approved therapeutics to treat, cure, or prevent the coronavirus (COVID-19). Patients diagnosed with COVID-19 receive supportive therapy with FDA-approved treatments, and, when appropriate, treating physicians may access non-FDA approved therapies still in the investigative phase of clinical trials through FDA's Compassionate Care Program.

Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine are not FDA-approved for the treatment of COVID-19. We understand research is currently underway with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin and acknowledge that these drugs may be helpful at certain stages of the disease.

We want providers and pharmacists to act with their best discretion to ensure patients continue to receive appropriate treatment in times of shortages. However, we discourage inappropriate prescribing of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for pre-exposure prophylaxis and treatment of COVID-19, which may restrict access for patients who need appropriate therapy, such as patients with lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, or malaria.

The Department of Health encourages providers to exercise good professional judgment and stewardship over the drug supply chain during this public health emergency.

For more information on the District's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov).