

COVID-19 Response and Reactivation Update

August 13: Avoidance of Hydroxychloroquine in Outpatient Settings, and Medication Management CME

Today's issue features information from Senior Infectious Diseases Pharmacist Michael Postelnick, RPh, BCPS, AQ, about recommendations on the use of hydroxychloroquine in outpatient settings. It also provides information about a COVID-19 medication management CME webcast available to all providers.

AVOIDANCE OF HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE IN OUTPATIENT SETTINGS

To date, randomized clinical trials have failed to demonstrate any benefit of using hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) compared to standard of care or placebo for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Use of HCQ is not recommended due to lack of efficacy compared to standard of care as well as concern for potential adverse events.

Below are current expert recommendations on the use of HCQ.

National Institutes of Health

- **Recommends against** use of HCQ or chloroquine for treatment of COVID-19, particularly outside of a hospital, except in clinical trial
- **Recommends against** HCQ plus azithromycin, except in clinical trial

World Health Organization

Recommends that HCQ (+/- azithromycin) should not be administered as treatment nor prophylaxis for COVID-19 outside of clinical trials

Infectious Disease Society of America

Suggests against HCQ plus azithromycin outside of clinical trials

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

- **Cautions against** use of HCQ for COVID-19 outside of a hospital or clinical trial due to risk of arrhythmias
- **Revoked** emergency use authorization (EUA) based on evidence demonstrating no benefit for decreasing likelihood of death nor speeding recovery

American College of Physicians

Should not use HCQ alone or in combination with azithromycin for COVID-19 due to known harms and no available evidence of benefits

Northwestern Medicine

Not recommended for COVID-19 due to lack of definitive evidence differentiating outcomes benefit with HCQ compared to supportive care and increased risk of adverse events, such as QTc prolongation, ventricular arrhythmia, cardiac death, drug-drug interactions and hypoglycemia

For additional information about select clinical trial evidence and references, please view


[Avoidance of Hydroxychloroquine In Outpatient Settings.](#)

CME WEBCAST: OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Hosted by Regional Medical Group Infectious Disease Specialist Luis Manrique, MD, and NM Pharmacist Radhika Polisetty, PharmD, the objective of the webcast is to assess therapeutic options available to manage COVID-19, review medication therapy, evaluate clinical studies and apply current treatment information to a given clinical scenario. The webcast is now available to all NM providers for CME credit on the **[Feinberg School of Medicine CME website.](#)**

Please remember, if members of the media reach out to you for comment or an interview, per **[NM's Media Relations Policy](#)**, refer them to Media Relations at 312.926.7432.

Thank you to all NM physicians and clinicians for your ongoing commitment, collaboration and leadership in providing exceptional *Patients First* care during this unprecedented time.



Gary A. Noskin, MD
Senior Vice President, Quality
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare
Chief Medical Officer
Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Howard B. Chrisman, MD
Senior Vice President
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare
President
Northwestern Medical Group