

March 30: COVID-19 Clinical Update

New Testing Criteria, Telemedicine Prescribing Guidelines, Donations and CDC Chloroquine Alert

To facilitate the sharing of important clinical information during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis and to help respond to questions from physicians across the health system, Northwestern Medicine has implemented a new daily communication for physicians – the COVID-19 Clinical Update.

In today's issue, you will find information regarding new COVID-19 testing criteria that went into effect on March 28, new telemedicine prescribing guidelines, how to manage donations and a CDC health advisory about chloroquine phosphate.

NEW COVID-19 TESTING CRITERIA

Because of limited COVID-19 testing supplies across the country, and to ensure adequate supplies needed to continue to test hospitalized patients and our workforce, Northwestern Medicine made the decision to suspend outpatient testing until additional supplies become available. All alternative testing site operations have been suspended. While outpatient testing has been suspended, we will continue to support our patients by adapting COVID-19 assessment and testing criteria. For more information, please view [COVID-19 Patient Monitoring Program](#).

TELEMEDICINE VISIT PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR NMG AND RMG PROVIDERS

New telemedicine prescribing guidelines have been developed for Northwestern Medical Group and Northwestern Medicine Regional Medical Group providers. Please view the [Telemedicine Visit Prescribing Guidelines for NMG and RMG Providers](#).

INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS DONATIONS

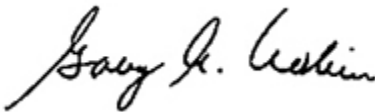
In response to the surge in support being offered from individuals and local businesses, guidelines have been established to help you connect interested donors to the appropriate channel. The generosity of our communities has been overwhelming. While systemwide donations are encouraged, local donations will also be accepted. According to Northwestern Medicine Corporate Compliance guidelines, NM employees may not directly ask vendors for donations. For specific processes and contact information for accepted donations, refer to [COVID-19 Donations Frequently Asked Questions and Contacts](#). If individuals or businesses

approach you with interest in making donations, please direct them to the [COVID-19 Donations page on nm.org](#).

CDC CHLOROQUINE HEALTH ALERT

A March 28 health alert from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that chloroquine phosphate, when used without a prescription and supervision of a healthcare provider, can cause serious health consequences, including death. Clinicians should discourage patients from misusing non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate (a chemical used in home aquariums). Clinicians should advise patients that chloroquine, and the related compound hydroxychloroquine, should be used only under the supervision of a healthcare professional as prescribed medications. View the full CDC alert at [Severe Illness Associated with Using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to Prevent and Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

As always, thank you for your dedication to providing care to our patients and supporting each other during this challenging period. As this healthcare crisis evolves, we will continue to provide you with the most current information through this daily COVID-19 Clinical Update. To help inform future communications, please submit any questions you may have to COVID-19MD@nm.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary A. Noskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Noskin" clearly legible.

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