



# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

985 Damonte Ranch Pkwy Suite 206, Reno, Nevada 89521

(775) 850-141440 • 1-800-364-2081 • FAX (775) 850-1444

• Web Page: [bop.nv.gov](http://bop.nv.gov)

## **Guidance on the Dispensing of Prescriptions for Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine in Response to COVID-19**

**March 20, 2020**

To promote patient access to needed medications during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following guidance on the dispensing of prescriptions for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine pursuant to NAC 639.753.

This guidance is being issued in accordance with NAC 639.170.

Currently, hydroxychloroquine is under investigation for use in the treatment of COVID-19. At this time, safety and efficacy have not been established.<sup>i</sup>

The FDA has been working closely with other government agencies and academic centers that are investigating the use of the drug chloroquine, which is already approved for treating malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, to determine whether it can be used to treat patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 to potentially reduce the duration of symptoms, as well as viral shedding, which can help prevent the spread of disease. Studies are underway to determine the efficacy in using chloroquine to treat COVID-19.<sup>ii</sup>

In the effort to prevent the stockpiling of these medications, the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy is restricting the dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine.

### **Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine Restrictions**<sup>iii</sup>

Prescriptions for chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine related to COVID-19 may ONLY be dispensed for the *treatment* of, NOT for the *prevention* of the disease and must comply with the following:

- a) The patient has a diagnosis of COVID-19 and the diagnosis is indicated on the prescription;
- b) The prescription is limited to no more than a fourteen (14) day supply;
- c) No refills may be permitted unless a new prescription is furnished; and
- d) The pharmacist confirms that the prescribing practitioner submitted an individual “compassionate use” or expanded access request with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA Form 3926).

This guidance is in effect until June 30, 2020.

For questions regarding this partial waiver, please e-mail the Board office at [pharmacy@pharmacy.nv.gov](mailto:pharmacy@pharmacy.nv.gov).

J. David Wuest, R.Ph.  
Executive Secretary  
Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

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<sup>i</sup> Hydroxychlorquine. Post TW, ed. UpToDate. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc. <http://www.uptodate.com>. Accessed March 20, 2020.

<sup>ii</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Continues to Facilitate Development of Treatments. 2020, March 19. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-continues-facilitate-development-treatments>. Accessed March 20, 2020.

<sup>iii</sup> This restriction does not affect chart orders in institutional settings.