

COVID-19

Guidelines for the use of Hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19 patients

APRIL 10, 2020



Distribution of State Supplied Hydroxychloroquine

Recommendations from the UAMS Clinical COVID-19 Task Force

**Dr. Keyur Vyas, Dr. Ryan Dare, Dr. Ronald Robertson,
Dr. Michelle Krause, and Jeffrey Cook, PharmD**

UAMS received a supply of 100,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine for distribution to UAMS and other Arkansas hospitals for patients with COVID-19 infection and to patients in the State with Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis that have lost access to this drug as a result of supply limitations (referred to hereafter as the “State Supply.”) A team of UAMS practitioners prepared the following guidelines for the treatment of COVID-19 positive patients at UAMS. Because the State Supply is limited, UAMS will follow its established treatment guidelines for distribution of Hydroxychloroquine to other Arkansas Hospitals. Practitioners must use their clinical judgment to determine when the use of Hydroxychloroquine is appropriate for their patients, and if they seek Hydroxychloroquine from the State Supply outside the guidelines provided herein, UAMS will consult with Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to consider revising or making exceptions to the guidelines based on any such requests.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

- **Absolute and relative contraindications to Hydroxychloroquine therapy (All Patients)**
 - G6PD (Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase) deficiency (consider screening if patient from Mediterranean descent)
 - Known cardiomyopathy
 - Prolonged QTc
- **Ambulatory setting**
 - Hydroxychloroquine will not be approved for use as prophylaxis for Healthcare workers or any other persons in Arkansas
 - Hydroxychloroquine will not be approved for the treatment of COVID-19 patients in an outpatient setting in Arkansas
 - Hydroxychloroquine outpatient prescriptions will be limited to the continued treatment of patients with Systemic lupus erythematosus or Rheumatoid Arthritis
- **Inpatient setting**
 - Hydroxychloroquine may be considered for use for COVID-19 hospitalized patients based on eligibility criteria as defined by the COVID-19 UAMS Targeted Treatment Considerations for Patients Admitted with COVID-19 Infections guideline (see attached)
 - **Mild to Moderate Disease:** Admitted with minimal oxygen requirement
 - Hydroxychloroquine therapy not indicated unless requiring supplemental oxygen or if **high risk criteria present**
 - High risk criteria includes:
 - Age > 60 years
 - BMI >35

COVID-19

Guidelines for the use of Hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19 patients

APRIL 9, 2020



- Chronic Medical Conditions such as pulmonary disease, chronic kidney disease, transplant, DM (Diabetes Mellitus), HTN (Hypertension), CVD, cardiomyopathy, biologic immune modulators (many), other immunosuppressive medications including chronic corticosteroid treatment >20 mg oral prednisone daily, HIV, pregnancy
- Laboratory abnormalities with ALC <1,000, LDH > 1x ULN, AST (Aspartate aminotransferase) or ALT >2 x ULN
- **Severe Disease:** Admitted with any of the following: SpO2 <94% on room air, RR >30 bpm, PaO2/FiO2 300 mm Hg
 - Hydroxychloroquine may be considered for treatment in this category
- **Critical Disease:** ICU care with mechanical ventilation, shock, or other organ failure
 - Hydroxychloroquine may be considered for treatment in this category; consideration to discontinue therapy if the patient's condition deteriorates
- **Requests for and distribution of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 hospitalized patients will be as follows:**
 - For UAMS, an order will be placed in EPIC and reviewed by Pharmacy for eligibility based on the COVID-19 Infections guideline criteria.
 - If eligibility criteria is confirmed, hydroxychloroquine will be dispensed to the inpatient unit
 - For non-UAMS facilities, a request for hydroxychloroquine will be made by the requesting facility and submitted to the UAMS Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at uamseoc@uams.edu (A separate workflow document is available with details)
 - Pharmacy will review the request in accordance with the COVID-19 Infections guideline criteria and prescribing for lupus or rheumatoid arthritis
 - If the non-UAMS patient eligibility criteria is met, UAMS Pharmacy will communicate with the requesting facility confirming availability, shipping method, and expected date of delivery
 - Requesting facility will notify UAMS through uamseoc@uams.edu that the medication has been received.
 - All dispenses will be tracked by the UAMS EOC
- **Hydroxychloroquine Treatment: 5 day regimen for COVID-19**
 - 400mg PO q12h x1d
 - 200mg PO q12h x4d
- **Hydroxychloroquine Treatment for Lupus/Rheumatoid Arthritis**
 - 200mg 400 mg daily (could be divided in 2 doses)

Care has been taken to ensure that this guideline is non-discriminatory and that non-discriminatory practices drive and inform the decision-making process of allocating this limited state resource.